

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

## WILLING AND UNWILLING AUSTRIA.

FORTUNATELY for Great Britain and France, and for the cause of European liberty and civilisation of which they have made themselves the champions, they are able to fight the battle without assistance. Perhaps if they had had the aid of Austria and Prussia, it would have been unnecessary to draw the sword; and there is little doubt that, with such aid—which they had every right to expect—the war, if it had begun in 1854, would have ended before 1855. Even at this late period the complete and cordial cohesion of Austria—leaving Prussia out of the question—would diminish the duration of the struggle by increasing its intensity. To that consummation, in spite of delays and procrastination, Austria must march. She is no longer mistress of her actions. It is impossible for her to remain neutral—or, more monstrous still, to take part against the Allies. She is with us, by her pledged honour, by her obvious interest, by her plain duty, by inevitable necessity, by every consideration of right, of sympathy, and of self-preservation. But she is slow, unwieldy, and hampered by obstructions. The leaders of public opinion in France and England should beware of throwing further, and quite unnecessary, impediments in the way of her Government. The work goes on without her, and will. But at the earliest moment in which she can overcome those internal difficulties, that appear small to foreigners who do not understand her position, but which are large, if not formidable, to her own subjects, she will throw her whole weight into the struggle, and perform her part with the dignity that becomes her.

It must not be forgotten that Austria has just emerged from a sanguinary revolution, during which her polished capital rivalled, in the atrocity and horror of the deeds committed by an ex-

asperated populace, the worst horrors committed by the people of the still more polished capital of France in 1789 and 1793. The passions then aroused have not entirely subsided; and demagogues, who would rather that France and England should be defeated, and that Russia should ride rampant over the world, than that their theories of Republicanism or Nationality should not have a chance of spasmodic life during the struggle, are on the watch for events, and take more delight in perplexing and injuring Austria than in serving that cause of liberty and independence which dwells upon their tongues, even if it have no abiding place in their hearts. When the British public hear any such men talking of the nationality—say of Hungary, for instance—let them ask themselves what they would have thought during the lifetime of the late Daniel O'Connell, if an agitation had been fomented in Vienna, or in Prague, in favour of the nationality of Ireland? if the Government of Great Britain had been denounced by Austrians with every conceivable form and combination of opprobrious epithet as an alien Government—the bitter and implacable oppressor of the Celtic people? And if the Austrian Government, or its Prime Minister, had been unwise enough to countenance and aspire to lead such a movement, what language would have characterised the folly and impertinence—not to say the wickedness—of the attempt? Under such circumstances, how long would peace have been possible between the two Governments? At the present time, neither this country nor France has any concern with nationalities—with the sole exception of Poland—and with that they would have nothing to do if they were at peace with Russia. But if we really desire the aid of Austria—aid which would be invaluable in bringing the war to a speedier conclusion than it is likely to arrive at while she keeps aloof—we should beware how we embarrass her by talking with favour of projects that, if suc-

cessful, would lead to her dismemberment, and the mere mention of which, in influential quarters, is a source of weakness and embarrassment to her Government.

It should also be remembered that Austria is in a state of pecuniary difficulty. She has immense resources—but they are undeveloped. She has a rich soil, an active-minded and industrious people, with unnumbered facilities for the extension both of her internal and her maritime trade; but she has been kept back by the feudalism happily abolished in 1848 and 1849; and requires time to turn that necessary revolution to its proper uses, and to become something better than a merely military power. Much as Great Britain and France require peace, Austria requires it still more. Great Britain and France can wage this war without the prospect of financial ruin; but it is difficult to see how Austria can bear so heavy a burden without incurring risks in the highest degree perilous. Solvency no less than stability is essential to every Government that desires to be respected and feared. All this should be taken into account before Austria is accused of treachery to the Allies, or of a design, near or remote, to make common cause with Russia. Yet much, if not all, of this is forgotten both in and out of the British Parliament; and Austria—jealous and susceptible, and rendered so by recent revolutions and mob rule—is perplexed with the idea that the Government of England is so weak, and popular passion so strong, that her alliance, which it would cost her so much to give, would not be appreciated, and might be repudiated, in this country.

Yet, while acknowledging all this, and much more in the internal politics of Austria that is but very imperfectly understood by British statesmen and the British people, we cannot forget that there is a limit to prudence, which overpassed, subjects him who



PEREKOP IN THE CRIMEA.—FROM A SKETCH BY WILLIBALD RICHTER, OF VIENNA.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



exceeds it, to the imputation of cowardice. Has not Austria reached that limit? With the fullest appreciation of their many difficulties, and with the utmost confidence in their honour, we believe that the Emperor Francis Joseph, and his advisers, have arrived at a climax, at which further hesitation will not only be dishonourable in itself, and in opposition to their past pledges, and present duty, but more costly and more dangerous than decided action. In Austria there is such a thing as public opinion. It does not find vent in newspapers, because the press is not free; it does not make a loud utterance in society, because the Government is despotic;—but it exists, nevertheless, and must be known to such men as Count Buol, and Baron Bruck, and in all probability to the Emperor himself. That opinion is to a large extent identical with their own, and is in favour of the Allies, and as energetically opposed to Russia, on every point and pretence, and for every conceivable reason, as the public opinion of Great Britain and France. But there is another kind of public opinion with which it is right these eminent and patriotic men should be made acquainted—the public opinion of Europe. If they hesitate longer—whatever the sacrifices which their decision might involve—they will fall in the estimation of the world. Like Prussia, they will lose character and caste. The moral prestige which makes nations great and keeps them so, will fail them if that quality which in proper subjection to duty is prudence, but which, in subjection to fear of consequences becomes poltroonery, leads them to hesitate when action is essential both to their honour and their safety. Neutral they cannot be; for their neutrality, or any course of conduct which they might attempt to disguise under that name, would be hostility to the Allies, and nothing less. As such it would be resented; and then the question of “nationalities”—with which France and England have no present right or call to meddle, would be as legitimate a weapon of aggression as a bombshell, a ship-of-the-line, or Lord Dundonald's apparatus, whatever it may be, for destroying Cronstadt and Sebastopol. But Austria will not, we are certain, require any such reminder of the danger of disappointing the just expectations of Europe. If she have been slow to make engagements, she has scrupulously performed them. She has never encouraged the designs of Russia; she has more to lose by their fulfilment than any other State of Europe; and her honour is pledged to unite with the Allies, in a contingency, which doubtless she would like to postpone, but which is fast approaching; and which nothing but the surrender or defeat of the Czar can prevent.

But what would be the position of Austria, if Great Britain and France—as is by no means improbable—should achieve a splendid and decisive victory, while she stood trembling, and inactive? Certainly it would not be a position which the young Emperor would have much pleasure in reflecting upon; or from which Count Buol and Baron Bruck could, as true patriots and wise statesmen, derive either satisfaction or credit. She would forfeit her right to be considered as a first-rate Power. She would afford a proof that the peace of the world could be kept without her aid; and would teach the oppressed, in every part of the Continent, whatever their “nationality,” their grievances, or their objects, that the real masters of Europe were France and England. This may be a very desirable consummation for France and England; but how it would conduce to the integrity of the Austrian Empire, to the extension of her resources, to the rescue of her people from the evil effects of past misgovernment, and to her assumption of her rightful place among civilised and prosperous States, it is for the Emperor of Austria and his Ministers to determine.

We have been informed on high authority that Marshal Radetzky is ready to guarantee the tranquillity of Lombardy with only one-fourth of the army now stationed in that province. No fears are entertained of Hungary, for the Hungarian peasantry and people are satisfied with the destruction of the feudal privileges which oppressed them prior to 1848, and are to a man loyal and well-affected to the Emperor; and the Czek population supplies a large portion of one of the finest armies in the world, and partakes the satisfaction of Hungary at the new order of things, inaugurated by the reign of Francis Joseph. What, then, keeps back the Austrian Government? Is it Baron Bruck, the man of one idea? Or is it pusillanimity on the part, not of one but, of many? We cannot believe in the pusillanimity. The machine is cumbersome, but it will move. The men are slow, but they are right-minded and honest. Let them take care that the battle be not won without them; and that the next settlement of Europe be not effected without consultation with those who, like Prussia, have lent no hand in the heat of the struggle, and who cannot expect either honour or advantage if they did not share in the sacrifices.

#### PEREKOP.

THIS little village is an important point of the Crimea, inasmuch as it is situated upon the isthmus which is the principal entrance to the country. Our View is from an original Sketch by Willibald Richter: it shows the principal portion of the village, with the arrival of a reinforcement of Russian soldiers, Cossacks, artillerymen, &c. The buildings shown, are a port-station, and a dépôt for salt, which is manufactured here. On the right is an ancient minaret, on the road leading to Simpheropol: it has a rent caused by a stroke of lightning some years since. The fortress east of the town contains a palace, barracks, a mosque, and a Greek church. We quote the following descriptive sketch of the place from an interesting little volume just published, entitled “The Crimea: its Towns, Inhabitants, and Social Customs, by a Lady, resident near the Alma”—

About two miles and a half from Armanakol Bazaar is the little village of Perekop, inhabited chiefly by Government employes and those connected with the salt lakes in the neighbourhood. The village is entered on the Russian side by a bridge, which crosses a wide and deep ditch cut across the isthmus. It is this ditch which has probably given its name to the isthmus—Perekop, in the Russian language, signifying a ditch cut across the road, or between two seas.

The principal entrance to the Crimea is by this isthmus, which separates the Black Sea from the Putrid Sea, and is about seventeen miles in length and five in breadth; but there is still another, which is now very much used, along the tongue of Arabat. This narrow stripe of land, seventy miles in length, which runs between the Sivash, or Putrid Sea, and the Sea of Azoff, is separated from the mainland at the northern extremity by a narrow channel. There are several post stations along this road; and at the southern extremity, where it is joined to the mainland, stands a fortress, which is in a very ruinous state. Not many years ago a bridge was constructed to complete the communication between the Russian mainland and the Crimea; and by this bridge the chief intercourse between the eastern part of the Crimea and Russia is now carried on.

A few years ago several rich and influential men in Russia proposed to form themselves into a company for the purpose of making a railway from Moscow to Theodosia, and the line chosen as the most advantageous was along the tongue of Arabat. This plan was presented to the Emperor for approval; but, as it was his wish that a railway should first be made between Moscow and Odessa, the execution of the company's projected line was postponed.

#### CONSTANTINOPLE.—DANGEROUS CONSPIRACY OF THE COOKS.

(From a Correspondent.)

WE have hitherto, out of consideration for the Government, left many complaints of mismanagement in the East entirely to Commissioners. We cannot say that we have been quite easy in our minds about many things, but we felt that a complimentary forbearance was due to Ministers. Even now we by no means desire to embitter the Ministerial white-bait dinners, which form so agreeable an official prospect at this season of the year, by any mistimed relation of the horrors to which our heroic fellow-countrymen are bowed down and dispirited at the cheerless hour of dinner in the East. These brave men, however, are subject to no common privations; and, after much and careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that their miseries must be occasioned by that fiendish cabinet of St. Petersburg, which being unable to overcome Lord Raglan in the field, or Lord John Russell in the council, have resolved on the cowardly expedient of attacking our noble army through its digestion, and destroying it collectively with so mean a weapon as the dinner-knife.

Even while we are writing, their diabolical machinations are ripening daily. Highly-connected Generals, each with a staff of his own and his banker's relations, are now compelled to devour the most impossible and injurious food. By the utter absence of all evening entertainments (another cunning design of our enemies), dinners at Constantinople are unnaturally prolonged, and the cooks have thus full time to effect our ruin. Their ingenuity is diabolical. You may dine at every table in the town for six months running, and you will get the same cloying, insipid food. Some of the Greek cooks in the houses of the natives, still undebauched by European visitors, have now and then ideas pungent and succulent enough, especially about lobsters; but the Franks seldom, indeed, have an opportunity of profiting by them. The native cooks in Frank houses and hotels are soon denaturalised and spoiled. They make spurious French and English dishes, of an appearance and flavour quite astounding. They will introduce you to the strangest and most ill-favoured alimentary acquaintance with the utmost effrontery as an old friend. You will be puzzled by seeing a singular soup under the name of plum-pudding, and a piece of tough fried anything is impudently called roast beef. They will take the longest names out of a *carte* of a French *restaurateur*, altogether haphazard, and apply them in an unblushing manner to any mess whatsoever that they may have thought worthy of an European digestion. This is not surprising. The cooks of our allies the Turks are never employed; and the Greek cook, as well as the rest of that uncomfortable and perplexing people will fast for six weeks at a time, and during the whole of that period never suffers anything but acrid shrivelled little olives and rank caviare to pass his lips. How can such a cynical-minded fellow (they are all men, a plague on them) become a good cook? It is physically impossible that he should ever be able to penetrate the sublime and hidden mysteries of his craft. A cook, to be worthy of that respectable name, should be a smooth, snug, comfortable genius, with a thorough appreciation of the consoling delicacies of the table; with a chaste and correct idea of the “Nics” in all things. He should have a portly and dignified development of apron. He should have an enthusiastic idea of the benefit conferred on a dyspeptic world by his honourable and lucrative profession. He should reverence cooking as an art, beside which that of the most accomplished physician is vanity and vexation of spirit. An air of studious philosophy should brood over the culinary temple where he officiates as high priest and king. Laughter and light talk should be absolutely banished. A cook who comprehends his mission will understand its solemnity and importance too well to allow the absorbing reflection in which he is constantly engaged to be disturbed by irreverent conversation or ideas. He will know that an indigestible dish served at the table of a General may occasion the destruction of his army, by the state of feverish irritation and ill-temper into which the General is thus thrown. Improper food may spoil the negotiation of the ablest diplomatist, by occasioning in him sudden starts of spleen or passion. It may disturb the rest of the harassed courier on his way with important despatches, and render the further prosecution of his journey impossible.

As the Greek cooks of Constantinople must understand the grave responsibilities which rest upon them, we cannot but conclude from their perverse conduct that they are employed and paid by some far-sighted Russian diplomatist, slowly to effect our entire destruction by the constant administration of pernicious sustenance. We would rather not discuss this question, indeed, but the Greeks are very angry just now, and very reasonably so. They are a pestilent and brooding race of men; and it is certain that whether this idea may have distinctly presented itself to the minds of the cooks as a body or not, they are evidently animated by some earnest and deep-seated feeling of hostility towards us. The unvarying toughness of some preparations issuing from their hands; the constant and nauseous squishiness of others; the dinginess of the plates, the bluntness of the knives, the melancholy inefficiency of the garlic-smelling waiters; the flatness, muddiness, and general impossibility of the wine, added to the excessive charges, would certainly lead any unprejudiced inquirer to the conclusion, that a conspiracy of no common nature has been formed against our gallant army, even in the very country of the Allies whose cause we have espoused. Far be it from us to insinuate any charge of a disagreeable nature against the oppressed Christians in Turkey; but even in the quiet homes of England there are many anxious mothers and fond wives who have viewed with feelings of unutterable anguish the attenuated forms of their gallant sons and husbands, and who have heard those heroes declare with their own lips that their cheeks have grown pale, and their constitutions have been injured, by the dreadful dinners to which they have been compelled to submit during a brief sojourn at Constantinople. In compassion, therefore, to our suffering fellow-countrymen, we trust that our present *debonnaire* and unoccupied Minister will make this important matter the subject of a prompt official inquiry.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—On Friday evening, the 11th inst., at the Royal Institution, a very interesting lecture was delivered by Mr. Henry Bradbury, on the beautiful process recently introduced in this country known as Nature-printing. The splendid work on “Ferns,” edited by Dr. Lindley, and printed at the office of Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, has attracted general notice. The principle of Nature-printing, which consists in taking an exact facsimile of a plant by pressure, has been known for many years; and Mr. Bradbury gave an interesting account of the practice of the art in the early days of typography, of its long disuse, and of its modern revival. In Germany it has been chiefly brought to its recent perfection; and during a professional residence in Vienna the lecturer made himself familiar with the process, and has most successfully introduced it in England. The audience at the Royal Institution were delighted to trace this process throughout its various stages, by the exhibition, not of models, but of the actual machinery, including the electric battery, by which the impression of a plant is produced; and Mr. Henry Bradbury's intelligent explanations showed how completely he had mastered this art, and how, at his hands, we may look for its attaining a high perfection in this country. After the lecture, Mr. Bradbury produced, for the gratification of the company, thin electro casts of the impressed plates in the remarkably short space of five minutes.

INDIAN RIVERS.—A very interesting discussion on the capabilities of our Indian empire has been lately originated at the Society of Arts by a paper read by Colonel Cotton, Engineer of the Madras service. Those interested in this question, which, among other points, involves our cotton supply, will find information of the most complete and clear kind conveyed by a model of the water-sheds of India, which Mr. Montgomery Martin has lately presented to the museum of the India House, Leadenhall-street.

AN INCOME-TAX COLLECTOR.—One of the collectors of the Income-tax in a district near Birmingham, has been committed for trial at Warwick assizes, on a charge of embezzling sums of money collected by him on account of the Income-tax. He had returned a number of houses void on which the tax had been collected, but in the subsequent half-year he had paid the amount in full.

#### THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. XVII.)

LORD JOHN RUSSELL seems to be desirous of making up for lost time—a loss he has lately incurred to a very considerable extent—and has already presented a bill for giving a Constitution to the colony of Victoria. This measure bears as near a likeness as the Imperial Government will permit to a draft sent over from the Colony and agreed to by the Legislative body there; but it is threatened with opposition by Mr. Lowe, on the ground that it does not represent the real wishes of the colonists. Should the member for Kidderminster succeed in embarrassing the Administration of which he lately formed a part, by causing this bill to be rejected, he will, no doubt, answer his own purpose by showing how troublesome he can be in opposition, but it is very doubtful whether he will do a service to the colony of whose interests he assumes to be the guardian. The Constitution proposed by Lord John Russell is essentially the same as that which has been framed by the Council, which is the legally recognised organ of the views and interests of the colonists. If Mr. Lowe wishes to reject everything proceeding from that legitimate source, it will be difficult to discover the quarter from which he expects to obtain a measure that will be likely to receive the sanction of the British Parliament. The colonists will not be very grateful to their friend Mr. Lowe for throwing over the proposed Constitution, and failing to substitute some other plan for putting an end to the state of uncertainty and discontent which has long prevailed in Victoria. Supposing that the bill introduced by Lord John Russell does not go the length of doing all that the whole of the colonists might agree to demand, there is, nevertheless, a very great amount of good in the scheme and it might, of course, be subjected hereafter to extension and improvement. If this plan is now defeated, it is most likely that two years at least will be lost before any constitution at all can be given to Victoria; and, considering the unsettled state of the colony, it is impossible to see what might be the effect of this seeming neglect of its interests by the Home Government.

The Committee on the State of the Army in the Crimea has completed the taking of the evidence. Though there has been from the commencement a constant fire kept up against the official witnesses, and the affair has gone on advancing, through the newspapers, in double columns, the progress seemed to be as unsatisfactory as the advance of the Allies has been, until lately, on the walls of Sebastopol. Every one is now expecting anxiously the report, which it is to be hoped will not end in mere noise and smoke, but will be in effect a vigorous assault on the bad system to which so much has been sacrificed. Lord Aberdeen was selected to furnish the subject of the finale to the inquiry, but the result was not very brilliant or satisfactory. His Lordship admitted the great inconvenience arising from the absence of the Master-General of the Ordnance; but he had got over the difficulty in a truly official manner, by appointing a Lieutenant-General to do the duty of the absentee—or, rather, to attempt to do it—while the absentee still held the office. In ordinary business, if a merchant has an inefficient or an absent clerk, his place is supplied by another; but in the public service it seems to be quite orthodox to make a new place for a new servant, at an additional salary; so that the public have to pay two officers for the services of one of them.

Great calamities will of course happen in spite of every precaution, but it does seem rather hard that a misfortune should occur in relation to a matter which legislation has especially been employed to guard against. Everybody who has added a few bricks to a garden wall, or changed the position of a copper, will be aware by a demand upon him for fees, that there is in existence a very stringent measure called the Building Act. This would of course be a very wholesome law, if it did all the good it was professedly passed to accomplish; but when one hears of such a frightful casualty as the fall of the Atlas Iron Works, it is impossible not to feel that, in spite of a great deal of inconvenience and expense occasioned by the Act in question, whenever bricks and mortar are to be used, the law is not effectual for the prevention of such alarming incidents as that by which more than a hundred lives might have been sacrificed. We shall probably hear that everything that was done was done in conformity with the established rules of science, and we shall have the great fact of the fall of the building utterly unaccounted for. As providentially no life may be lost, there will be no coroner's inquest, and consequently no inquiry whether the alterations at the works had been effected in conformity with the Building Act; and, if such has been the case, who is to blame for the occurrence of the accident?

It is easy to understand why Lord Palmerston should feel sore with Mr. Layard, but it is difficult to conceive how the Premier can allow himself to descend to those petty acts which render his soreness visible. The refusal of his Lordship to give Mr. Layard a day for the discussion of his motion, with an intimation that “the honourable member must find a day for himself,” was quite unworthy of the Premier, who will find that his own day will come, perhaps, before he is prepared for it. Considering how many days are lost by the Legislature, it is strange that there should be any difficulty in finding one for the discussion of a subject in which the country takes a serious interest.

The debate on Lord Ellenborough's resolutions in the House of Lords did not give the public a very favourable opinion of the capacity of the statesmen who took part in it; but the dullness of the affair has been accounted for by Lord Redesdale, who declared that the presence of ladies had paralysed a portion of their Lordships' eloquence. One Peer had positively intended to have addressed the House; but, like the sentimental gentleman in the song, who “rose, but could not speak, for her eye was upon him.” His Lordship remained silent under the gaze of the ladies who were permitted to be present. There is no knowing what an amount of brilliant eloquence may have been lost to the pages of Hansard by the attendance of the fair sex in the House of Lords on Monday last; but if I thought that the debates would be curtailed by an extension of the privilege of admission to an increased number of females, I would for once break my silence in the House of Commons and propose the enlargement of the Ladies' Gallery. Lord Redesdale compared the appearance of the House of Lords on the evening in question to that of a Casino—a comparison not very complimentary to the ladies who happened to “assist” at the debate, and whose conduct and manners surely were not such as to warrant the rather odd allusion.

One of the reasons assigned for the infrequency and poverty of the news conveyed by the electric telegraph at the Crimea is the difficulty found by the Government in comprehending the explanatory cipher. If the members of the Administration do not understand ciphers they must find it rather hard, occasionally, to understand each other. In one instance the key is said to have been lost—a sign that it must have fallen into hands as careless or incompetent as those in which the keys of office are sometimes deposited.

ART CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The drawings contributed by the Royal children to this fund were sold on Monday, according to announcement. The Princess Royal's drawing was purchased for the sum of 250 guineas. The Prince of Wales' brought 55 guineas; and the remaining drawings, by the Princess Alice, Princess Helena, and Prince Alfred, 30 guineas each. The owners of these attractive contributions have considerably allowed them to remain at Burlington-house, where they will be exhibited during the present season. Independently of the invited, 1000 persons paid for admission at the doors.

TESTIMONIAL.—On the 2nd inst., a handsome silver inkstand was presented to the Vestry Clerk of Hillingdon, at a vestry-meeting attended by the Rev. Beilby Porteus Hodgson, the Vicar; the churchwardens, and several influential parishioners. The inkstand bears the following inscription:—“This testimonial is presented to Thomas Wits Watford, Esq., by a few of the parishioners of Hillingdon, as a mark of their high appreciation of his valuable services as Vestry Clerk of the parish for a period of fifty years, which he completed on Tuesday April 10th, 1855.”



## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.  
CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, in moving the series of resolutions of which he had given notice, and which he gave last week, said that the country had now been more than a year in a war in which its whole naval and military strength had been called into operation. There had been no failure of courage on the part of our soldiers and sailors, and yet our military operations had been attended with sufferings unequalled, but without being also attended with any corresponding success. He adverted to the topic which apparently weighed upon both Houses or Parliament during the present Session, and traced the lamentable cause to the incompetence of the present Government. The only sound principle, he contended, was that merit should be the passport to office, though he admitted it would expose a Minister to dangers resulting from the jealousy of influential persons, unless supported by public opinion. He was, he confessed, apprehensive at the growth of popular impulses out of doors, and he, therefore, asked their Lordships to neutralise any mischiefs which might threaten, by themselves guiding the general movement, so that official persons should be chosen with an eye to their capacity, and to that alone. The noble Lord then proceeded to comment on the blunder of losing the enlistment of 16,000 militiamen, by an attempt to save some £60,000; on the fact that the services of the Baltic fleet were rendered nugatory by the non-supply of soldiers and gun-boats; that the Asiatic field of action against the Czar had been neglected, and that the attack on Sebastopol had been both ill-judged and ill-timed—a double blunder—a blunder in diplomacy and a blunder in warfare. The present position of the besieging army of the Allies was that it was itself beleaguered between the Russian intrenchments and the sea—unable to take the field, and yet finding it hopeless to take Sebastopol. He considered the Government at home responsible for all the disasters which had taken place, and for the eventual failure of the siege; and the fault, he believed, was more fairly attributable to the men than to the system upon which it was sought to be thrown. He supported administrative reform for the same reason as he had formerly supported the Reform Bill, because he wished to see the ablest men placed in the public service. Their Lordships should recollect that they enjoyed their hereditary rank and privileges owing to the merits of their ancestors, who had won their position, not by favour but by fitness, and he trusted in a great crisis like the present they would advocate the very principle to which they owed their own existence, and place themselves in the van of public opinion.

Lord LANIER said, the resolutions were a series of truisms and platitudes ending in accusations in which both the persons and the acts impugned were alike vague and indistinct. Viewing the resolutions, however, as a censure on the Government, he would meet them with a distinct negative. As an apology for the mistakes which had taken place, he adverted to the forty years of peace which the country had enjoyed, and the insufficiency which not unnaturally followed of our armaments, after all the retrenchments which had been effected. The Government had, however, laboured indefatigably and successfully to place them on a proper footing when a sudden war rendered their services necessary. Considerations of public policy prevented his citing any documents in support of his assertion; but he assured their Lordship that since February the British troops had been constantly improving in health, strength, and efficiency, and were now unrivalled in every quality which could render an army formidable to an enemy. The noble Earl had not advanced a single instance in which insufficient functionaries had been placed in high offices from favouritism, and he could only meet the general charge with as general a denial. The noble Lord proceeded to say that true patriotism would suggest to their Lordships the adoption of a course which would strengthen the hands of Government, and give the army and its General increased confidence in their constitutional directors.

The Earl of HARDWICKE entered in much detail into the conduct of the transport service and the establishment of the blockades, charging the Government with numerous faults, both of omission and commission, and pointing out better modes of procedure for the future.

The Earl of ELGIN defended the Government, whose measures were as yet to a considerable degree untried, and no advantage could, therefore, arise from a mere change in the personnel of the Government.

Earl GRANVILLE repudiated the charge of nepotism in the selection of public officers. The resolutions exaggerated all the disasters they referred to on the one hand, while they ignored, on the other, all the improvements which had been carried out, and all the advantages which had been obtained.

The Earl of DERBY said, he could not allow Ministers to shelter themselves behind the bravery of our armies, who had so gloriously upheld the character of the country in the field of battle. He entered into considerable detail to show that the expedition to Sebastopol was a total and a disgraceful failure—undertaken without proper consideration or preparation—undertaken at the wrong time, in the wrong manner, and resulting in placing the army in a situation of being rather the besieged than the besieger. The terrible sufferings in this winter campaign in the Crimea were to be attributed to the negligence and incapacity and want of foresight exhibited by all the public departments. It would occasion to him much regret should the result of the debate of that evening throw on himself the responsibility of forming an Administration; but at the same time he admitted that circumstances had much changed since the period when he had formerly felt himself compelled to abandon such a task. Amongst those changes he instanced the conclusion of the Vienna Conference and the extinction of Lord Palmerston's excessive popularity.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE defended the Government of which he had been a member from the censures of the Earl of Derby.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE opposed the resolutions.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY supported the resolutions.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, in defending the conduct of Government, said they must look merely at the losses sustained by the Allied army in the present war. The Russians had suffered far greater losses than we had done. A few days before the death of the Emperor Nicholas, a return was given in, which showed that no less than 177,000 Russian soldiers had died up to that time. According to a supplemental return furnished some days later, 70,000 men were added to the list, making in all 247,000 men since the beginning of the war.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH having replied, their Lordships divided. The numbers were—For the motion—present, 71; against it, 115. Majority, 44. The Government then called for proxies, and 66 were produced, Lord Ellenborough did not call for proxies.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

## THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

In reply to questions from Mr. M. Gibson and Mr. Layard, Lord PALMERSTON said, he could not give a Government day for the discussion of the protocols of the Vienna Conference, owing to the great pressure of public business. He had offered a day to Mr. Layard, which he had declined.

Mr. DISRAELI said that in all former cases where similar papers had been communicated to Parliament the Government of the day had invariably made them the subject of discussion of its own accord. If the noble Lord at the head of the Government was disinclined to adopt the precedents he referred to, he might at all events feel it to be consistent with his duty to give facilities to other hon. members to bring forward the discussion.

Lord PALMERSTON said, he would not offer any impediment to such a discussion, and any hon. member, by an arrangement with gentlemen who had notices on the paper, might bring forward a motion on the subject. The Government business was very pressing, and he should not, therefore, bring forward any motion on these papers; but he would be ready to meet any discussion which might be originated by others.

The Customs Duties Bill was read a third time and passed.

## METROPOLITAN LOCAL MANAGEMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for the House resolving itself into Committee on the Metropolitan Local Management Bill.

Sir B. HALL entered into some explanations with respect to certain changes which he deemed necessary to make in Hobhouse's Act, which is incorporated in the bill.

Viscount EBRINGTON moved an amendment that the further consideration of the bill be deferred till the House has decided upon the principles of the bill announced by the President of the Board of Health for the modification of the Act commonly known as Hobhouse's Act, which Act is proposed to be incorporated in the Metropolitan Bill.

After a short discussion, Lord EBRINGTON withdrew his motion.

Mr. MACKINNON then moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

The House divided, and the amendment was negatived by a majority of 131 to 8.

The House then went into Committee, and considerable progress was made before midnight, when the House resumed, and the Chairman reported progress.

Lord PALMERSTON said, he would give precedence on Monday to the motion of Mr. M. Gibson with respect to the Vienna Conference.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

## PROXIES.

The Earl of MALMESBURY complained of some irregularities in taking the division on the previous night. Proxies, he said, had been called for without notice, with the result of swelling the Ministerial majority, the Opposition not being ready to produce the proxy papers on their side.

The Earl of BESSBOROUGH gave some explanations, and, after a brief conversation, the subject dropped.

## TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE moved the following resolution:—"That it

is the opinion of this House that, in order to bring the war with Russia to a speedy termination, it is necessary to restrict the trade with that country by more efficient measures than any which have hitherto been adopted or announced by her Majesty's Government."

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY repeated the explanations which had already been offered by the Government to justify the leniency heretofore shown towards neutral Powers with respect to the export of Russian commodities. Every exertion, however, would be made to establish a strict blockade at all the Russian ports to annihilate, if possible, the direct commerce of that country along the whole extent of her seaboard.

Lord Ravensworth, Lord Wodehouse, Earl Granville, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Earl Grey, the Earl of Derby, and Earl Fitzwilliam continued the discussion.

Their Lordships then divided, and the motion was negatived, the numbers being:—Contents, 31; non-contents, 47: majority, 16.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Mr. LAYARD announced his intention of bringing forward the resolutions of which he had given notice as an amendment on the motion for Committee of Supply, upon Thursday week.

## THE HARDWARE TRADE.

Mr. HADFIELD moved that the House should resolve itself into Committee to consider the laws which secured the property of the manufacturers and the wages of the workmen engaged in the fabrication of various descriptions of hardware. The object of his motion he explained to be the extension of the statute of 6 and 7 Victoria, so as to include Birmingham, Sheffield, and Wolverhampton in its provisions.

The motion was agreed to; and the House having gone into Committee, a resolution framed to carry out the object indicated was agreed to.

On resuming, Mr. HADFIELD obtained leave to bring in a bill on the subject.

## THE SCREW-PROPELLER.

Capt. SCOBELL moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances under which the £20,000 compensation voted to the patentees of the screw-propeller had been distributed to the several recipients. The hon. member related at much length the history of the invention in question, and of the various claims to which it had given rise, contending for the prior title of Captain Carpenter, who, it seems, obtained none of the money.

Sir F. BARING gave a different version of some of the transactions alluded to, exonerating the Board of Admiralty—of which he had been a member—from the charge of negligence or favouritism in the allotment of the compensation fund.

Mr. KEATING and Admiral WALCOTT supported the motion.

Sir F. THESIGER, in opposing it, stated reasons for believing that Captain Carpenter could claim no share in the original contrivance of the screw-propeller, which he contended should be assigned to previous inventors, and especially to Mr. Francis Pettit Smith.

After some remarks from Sir G. Pecheil, Mr. J. G. Phillimore, Sir C. Wood, and other members, the House divided:—For the motion, 49; against, 69: majority, 20.

## FORMATION OF PARISHES.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD moved for leave to bring in a bill to make better provision for the formation and endowment of separate and distinct parishes. The measure, he explained, would enlarge the powers of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, so as to enable them to subdivide parishes in certain cases where the population had increased, and new churches were built, and to give to existing districts a distinct parochial character.

Lord PALMERSTON gave his assent to the introduction of the measure; and, after a few words from Mr. HADFIELD, the motion was agreed to, and leave given to bring in the bill.

Mr. ATHERTON obtained leave to bring in a bill for amending the laws relating to mortmain; and

Mr. COLVILLE for a bill amending the law relating to the qualification of justices of the peace; and

Sir G. GREY for a bill to amend the law for the inspection of coal-mines.

The Spirit Duties (Excise) Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Alteration in Pleadings Bill was read a second time.

The Sewers (House Drainage) Bill was read a third time and passed.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

## CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill,

Sir W. CLAY commented on the absence of all the members of the Government; and then proceeded to explain the provisions of the bill. The popular cry was—"Are you going to deprive the Church of its stability?"—"It is the poor man's Church." By the bill he now brought forward, for the first time would the poor man have the benefit of the Church. By the bill he had provided that one-third of the area of churches should be allotted to free seats, and the remainder to pew-rents, to supply the place of church-rates: that scarcely could be objected to; for, when it was said that the present Church was the poor man's Church, the whole area might at any time be appropriated without any reservation for the poor. The auditors provided by the bill were to be selected from pewholders; and reservation was made that churchwardens should be liable to any balance found due from them, and that actions might be brought to recover those amounts by succeeding churchwardens. The honourable member then proceeded in detail to show that the fact of the vast increase of churches that have been erected during the last twenty years, and the expenses of which were, to a vast extent, borne by the public, was evidence in favour of the arguments that he had advanced in favour of the bill, and he strongly urged the adoption of the voluntary system being brought in aid of pew-rents. After some further observations the hon. Baronet moved that the bill be read a second time.

Mr. PACE contended that there was not sufficient evidence that the public feeling was in favour of the bill, as he found on examination that the number of signatures was not one-fourth of the number of those who signed petitions against the Beer Bill last session. He moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. L. DAVIES said, the Government ought to come forward and allay the public feeling on this subject, and he told the noble Lord at the head of the Government that he ought to state the views of the Government on the subject. The question was not one of religion, but one affecting the property of the land. He should therefore second the amendment.

Mr. COWPER did not think it would be desirable to accept the present bill; although he might not be indisposed that some remedy should be applied to alter the present system, he could not approve of the present bill, and therefore he was compelled to support the amendment.

Mr. LUSHINGTON opposed the bill. It was most objectionable in principle, and unjust both to the Church and the poor, who would be precluded from any free places in houses of worship.

Mr. LABOUCHERE supported the second reading. If the bill went into Committee, much of its machinery might be altered, and on that ground he supported the bill.

Lord PALMERSTON did not think that the bill of the hon. member would be calculated to meet with the approbation of both branches of the Legislature. He could not put those places of worship that existed for centuries in the same category as churches that had more recently sprung up. The bill did not contain sufficient provisions for supporting the maintenance of the fabrics of the Church. These churches were the national institution, and it would not be for the advancement of religion that they should be suffered to decay. Many hon. members had said it was the duty of Government to find out the means which would solve the difficulty (loud cries of "Hear, hear"). It was all very well and very easy for hon. members to say so; Government had dealt with the question before without any success. He was not, on the part of the Government, prepared to bring in any bill this session (Hear, hear), nor could he at present see any means of the settlement of the question. Personally he felt bound to resist its further progress, and vote against the bill.

Lord SEYMOUR regretted the speech of Lord Palmerston, which was in direct contradiction of the assertion of Lord John Russell last session, that it was the intention of the Government to settle the question this session.

The House divided, when the numbers were—For the second reading, 217; for the amendment, 189: majority, 28.

The bill was consequently read a second time. The announcement was received with loud and continued cheering.

## CARLISLE CANONRIES BILL.

Mr. FERGUSON moved the second reading of this bill, which was to suspend a canonry and to divide the proceeds amongst the four incumbents of the parishes of Carlisle, which were very insufficiently provided for.

Mr. COWPER moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

After a short discussion the House divided, when the numbers were:—For the second reading, 102; against, 98: majority, 4. The announcement was loudly cheered. The bill was then read a second time.

POLISH AND HUNGARIAN VOLUNTEERS.—The *Siecle* says, several chiefs of the Polish and Hungarian insurrections of 1830 and 1848 have, within the last few days, left England and France to embark for Constantinople. Many of them went to that capital at the beginning of the war, and the Ottoman Government accepted their services, but, afterwards, owing to the intervention of foreign diplomacy, declined them. They hope that at present their entrance into the service of the Porte will not encounter any difficulty, or at all events calculate on being employed in the Anglo-Turkish Legion now being raised by the British Government. A number of the prisoners taken from the Russians at Bomarsund arrived last week at Montpellier, under the command of an officer of the 6th Regiment of the Line, who is to accompany them to Marseilles. These men have been enrolled for the Polish Legion in the service of Turkey, almost every one of them being Poles.

## FALL OF THE ATLAS IRON-WORKS.

THE premises of the Atlas Iron-works Company are situated immediately facing the racket-ground of the Queen's Bench Prison, in the Borough-road, and stretch as far as the back of the houses in Newington-causeway. The place was originally built for carpenters' workshops, and was four stories high, being built of timber, covered with heavy sheets of slate, the supports of the roof being long horizontal girders, braced together. The uprights, it appeared, were too weak for the weight of the metal required in such premises as are used in the engineering trade, although sufficiently strong for the purposes they were originally intended. The building which has fallen was about 90 ft. long and nearly 70 ft. high; the lower floor being used as the drilling and casting-houses. The drying-shops were on the next floor, over which were the carpenters' shops; and on the floor above were deposited all kinds of iron work—the whole being of great weight.

Shortly after two o'clock on Monday afternoon the various workmen, numbering upwards of 100, had returned from dinner, and had taken their respective places at their lathes, drums, and benches, when of a sudden some persons, who were in the top part, had their attention directed to one of the sides rocking to and fro. They raised an immediate alarm, and at once made an attempt to gain the street. Others in the lower floor, also seeing the building move, made an attempt to leave, and fortunately several were successful; but before the whole number could get out, the roof fell in, and in an instant afterwards the top floor fell, and the lower floors, being pressed by the additional weight thrown upon them, also dropped to the ground. As soon as the dust had in some measure cleared away, the exact amount of the injury and the cause became apparent; and the cries which proceeded from the ruins proved that several persons were embedded. Messengers were dispatched to the Stones-end Police Station for the aid of a strong muster of police, and Inspectors Moore and McIntosh, with nearly 100 officers, repaired to the scene, and found men almost in a state of frenzy, rushing about, and begging the officers to allow them to assist in rescuing the less fortunate workmen who were under the ruins. The request was, of course, readily granted, and the police assisted the men in digging the poor fellows out. The neighbours also showed every willingness in assisting in getting the rubbish away, and, after some time, two men were got out by Mr. Day, of the Eight Bells Tavern, Cross-street, Blackfriars-road, who removed them in a cab, and they were driven off to St. Thomas's Hospital. The state of the premises having been made known to the authorities of the hospital, and the great number of persons who were buried alive in the ruins, several medical gentlemen connected with the institution proceeded to the scene, in order to render immediate assistance as the men were got out.

Several persons were, by dint of great exertion, removed from the rubbish; and they were found to be very badly cut and injured by the fall of timber and iron work; two were taken to the surgery of Mr. Olling, in High-street, Borough, and Mr. Charles Smith, his assistant, strapped up their wounds. One man had received a contused wound at the back of the head, and the other had his leg severely cut. Tackling having been obtained, and the assistance of some 200 men, the stones, after about two hours, were raised, and a man liberated. He was taken to St. Thomas's Hospital, but he is in a very dangerous condition. Another man, named Joseph Giles, was also extricated, after much time and trouble, with his skull fearfully fractured. A man named James Holden was next brought from the ruins, and was taken by the police to St. Thomas's Hospital. Charles Pryer was likewise got out, with his leg fractured by a millstone falling on it, and he was also removed to the same institution. Another man, whose name could not be ascertained, owing to his being perfectly insensible, was removed to the hospital, but not the least hopes can be entertained of his recovery. A man named John Regan was extricated from the broken timber and forthwith removed to Guy's Hospital. The total number of sufferers taken to St. Thomas's Hospital was seventeen; twelve of whom had their wounds dressed and were able to be removed home, but the other five remain in a very dangerous state.

The cause of the accident is said to have been the giving way of a temporary wooden block, which had been substituted for an iron pillar while some alterations were being carried out.

## SHIPWRECK OF THE EMIGRANT BARQUE "JOHN."

THIS melancholy case of shipwreck took place on the night of the 3rd inst., on the Manacles, off the coast of Cornwall. The unfortunate barque left Plymouth Sound on the afternoon of that day, bound for Quebec, having on board 149 adult passengers, 98 children, and 16 infants, together with a crew, in all, of 19; making the total number of souls on board 282. The passengers were principally from the north of Devon, the great source of American emigration in the west of England. She sailed at four p.m., on the top of the ebb tide, with a favourable wind off the land; and all bade fair for a rapid and prosperous voyage down Channel. About half-past nine they made the Falmouth light, the captain himself pointing it out to one of the passengers on deck. Just at this time the second mate was trying to sight the Lizard light, and he asked some of the passengers if they could not see the reflection of the light in the sky? They replied they could not; when the captain said, he could not either, but they would see it fast enough when they got there. It was the second mate's watch, and the captain shortly after went below. About ten o'clock the mate came on the poop and asked the passengers if they had seen the captain, and on being asked what he wanted the captain for, he said he (the mate) thought they were a deal too high land. Shortly after this the captain came on deck, and what the mate had stated, "that they were getting too close on land," was reported to him. The captain pool-pooled the report. Soon afterwards some one forward sung out "rocks," and almost immediately the vessel struck with violence, so much so that she bumped over the rock, and then struck with still greater force upon rocks further in. The captain was then distinctly heard to call out, "Run her aground." The vessel then had all sail on her with great way, as she was when the accident happened going eight or nine knots, and though run aground the sea washed her off again, and she ran down the coast for some distance. An attempt was then made to bring her up by letting go her anchor, when she grounded heavily broadside on. Attention was then directed to the boats, of which she had four on board (three on deck and one over the side); the captain, four seamen, and one passenger, jumped into the latter boat and called out to lower; but finding no one answer the call, the captain returned to the deck of the vessel, when the boat was lowered. On her touching the water it was found there was no plug in her, and she was without thowle pins. While they were waiting to supply these deficiencies, her tackle became unhooked, and the boat drifted off from the vessel without the captain. The men put their knives in for thowle pins, and the passenger his German pipe for a like purpose, and they pulled out to sea to get round a point of rocks over which the breakers were rolling heavily. When they had weathered this point they pulled for the land, on nearing which they saw a light. Not being able to find a landing-place they called aloud for help, when they were heard by the son of Lient. McLean, of the Coast-guard, who pointed out a place of landing. Immediately the alarm was spread that a vessel had struck on the Manacles. An attempt was then made to pull out some of the Coast-guard boats without success, from the dangerous character of the coast. The passenger who had got on shore was taken by the Coast-guard people in their attempt to put out to assist the vessel, in order to direct them where she lay, those of the ship's crew who got ashore positively refusing to lend even this assistance. Unfortunately the boats could not reach the vessel, and were compelled to return to the shore. They postponed all further efforts till the following morning, when, going further up the coast to a more favourable place of embarkation, they reached the vessel, which was then not above 200 yards from the shore. During the whole of this time—the crew being for the most part intoxicated—not a single effort was made to save the passengers by either captain or crew. Some of the passengers attempted of themselves to get the cutter out; in so doing they stove her bottom, and lost the boat. The tide at the time the vessel struck was about two-thirds ebb, and when she sunk she filled with water; but the decks were dry, and if assistance had been rendered at this time all might have been safely landed. The master would not allow the two largest boats to be hoisted out, telling the passengers to be quiet, that they were perfectly safe, as the tide would not flow before daylight, when boats from the shore would come off and take them from the wreck, evincing hereby his perfect ignorance of the tides, a most important matter to attend to; instead of which the tide commenced flowing at one, and before two the sea broke heavily over the vessel, dashing the boats to pieces, each wave carrying its victims into eternity amidst the most terrific shrieks of the rest, expecting every moment to meet the same doom. One hundred and ninety-six men, women, and children, were swallowed up, and about eighty saved. The crew, with the exception of the steward, evinced the greatest apathy throughout this dreadful scene, and did not render the slightest assistance to the passengers. When the shore boats arrived, about half-past three





WRECK OF THE EMIGRANT SHIP "JOHN."

or four o'clock, they were the first to try to get into them, with their bags, showing a greater anxiety to secure these than to save the lives of the emigrants. Not a seaman perished.

An inquest was held on the bodies which have come to land, and the jury, in recording their verdict, observed that they considered the conduct of the whole crew, with the exception of a seaman named Elder, most blameable, and expressed their surprise that the ship was not supplied with a signal gun nor blue lights, and recommended that a light should be placed on the Manacles. Against the captain (Rawle) they returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the coroner's warrant was at once issued for his apprehension, on which he has been lodged in the Cornwall county gaol at Bodmin.

#### THE FOREIGN LEGION, MELVILLE ISLAND, HALIFAX.

We have been favoured with the accompanying Sketch, by Lieut. Bland, 76th Regiment, illustrative of the activity shown in Nova Scotia, in pro-

viding auxiliaries for the vigorous prosecution of the war. Of the formation of the Legion for this purpose we have received the following details:—

A few weeks back, one of the members of the Colonial Government was dispatched to the United States, the object of his going being kept secret; but the arrival of the brig *America*, on the 30th of March, with seventy-six emigrants on board, cleared up the mystery. On the morning of that day the Governor, Sir Gaspard le Marchant, went down to the Queen's Wharf, where he was met by the military staff. A Captain Schobel, who came in charge of the emigrants, reported himself and introduced two other officers and a doctor. Seventy-one of them were paraded, and expressed a wish to enter her Majesty's service, the other five sought employment on the railroad or elsewhere. They were then taken up to the Military Hospital and inspected, when, with one or two exceptions, they all passed, and were declared, by the principal medical officer and his staff, to be a very creditable lot of recruits, equal to the average of those raised in England. After the medical inspection they were marched out to Melville Island, where accommodation for 500 men had been provided (at about three days' notice), under the direction of Colonel Stotherd, R.E., and his staff,

Captain Barry and Lieut. Walker, R.E. The building in which they are located is a large wooden edifice, formerly employed for the accommodation of French prisoners, and would, on an emergency, hold from 1300 to 1500 men, by means of hammocks suspended one above the other. Although but a short notice had been given, the men were comfortably housed the first night—a cook-house, canteen, engine-house, &c., having been previously erected. As large numbers were, and are still expected, our informant states the following officers of her Majesty's 76th Regiment were doing duty with them:—Brevet-Lieut. Col. Lloyd, Capt. Thomas Tydd, Lieut. J. W. Preston, and Lieut. J. F. Bland. The men were progressing favourably with their drill, many of them having served before in the Hungarian and Prussian services.

The situation of Melville Island is remarkably picturesque; and in the summer it is a great resort of the ladies of Halifax, for pic-nics, and lobster-spearing. This latter amusement is carried on by torch-light, at which let no too susceptible young man attend. It appears by the American papers that the Yankees do not approve of the emigrants coming here.



BARRACKS OF THE FOREIGN LEGION, MELVILLE ISLAND, HALIFAX.



FIELD-MARSHAL'S BATON FOR LORD RAGLAN.



FIELD-MARSHAL'S BATON, FOR PRESENTATION TO LORD RAGLAN BY HER MAJESTY.

assisting the English and French in their operations in the Crimea, under their able and distinguished leader, General La Marmora, who married an English lady (Miss Bertie Matthew), and whose recent visit to England excited so much interest.

WE have been favoured with an inspection of the Field-Marshal's Baton, intended for presentation by her Majesty to Lord Raglan. The Staff, or Baton, is covered with crimson velvet, powdered with gold lions. The Staff is surmounted by a group of St. George and the Dragon, in solid gold, of exquisite workmanship. The lower end of the Staff bears on a richly-chased gold mounting the following inscription:—

"From Her Majesty Alexandrina Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B. 1855."

The upper and lower mouldings are richly chased with the rose, shamrock, and thistle. The whole has been beautifully executed by Messrs. Turner, of New Bond street.

THE SOURCE OF FRENCH BRAVERY.—A young Zouave, who had entered the army as a volunteer, excited the greatest astonishment and admiration amongst the English and French officers by his gymnastic powers. He attempted the most extraordinary feats, and always succeeded. An English captain asked him one day why, gifted as he was with such marvellous agility, he had entered the army voluntarily, when in a circus he could earn ten—nay, twenty-times as much as in the army. The Zouave coloured to the very temples, and in a tone of wounded pride replied, "Because I hope to die a French general, and not a riding-master. The French soldier looks to something besides money." Then, plunging his hands into his side-pockets, he turned round and took his departure; but from that day nothing in the world would tempt him to give any specimen of his wonderful powers before an English officer."—*French paper.*

EMBARKATION OF THE SARDINIAN CONTINGENT FOR THE CRIMEA.

The accompanying Illustration (from a sketch by Chev. Bossoli) represents the embarkation of the Sardinian Contingent from the port of Genoa for the East, and has been obligingly communicated by P. F. Campbell Johnston, who has just returned to England from the Sardinian States, where he has been spending a few weeks examining the state and prospects of that interesting country. The Constitution granted by the late King is being carried out with great success; and, under the able administration of Count Cavour, the welfare of the people and the resources of the country are being gradually developed.

The whole of the Sardinian Contingent (numbering upwards of 15,000 soldiers) will shortly be on their way to the East; and, before the end of the month, will, in all probability, be actively engaged

M. DROUYN DE LHUYS.

M. DROUYN DE LHUYS, the late able Minister for Foreign Affairs in France—who has resigned, or been requested to resign, office, on account, it is supposed, of his too great love for peace à tout prix—was born in the year 1802, at Melun, in the department of Seine et Marne. Although the scion of a rich and noble house, he did not, like so many others in his position, consider himself exempt from the sacred obligation of labour, but put himself in training to become useful to his country and to mankind. He was educated at the College of Louis-le-Grand, and distinguished himself by his quickness and his industry, particularly in reference to rhetoric, for which he gained the prize of honour.

The instruction he had received, combined with the position occupied by his family, put many opportunities in his way which many young men do not enjoy. His early penchant for rhetoric manifested itself more decidedly in an enthusiastic love of politics and diplomacy; and he was appointed Secretary to the Embassy under the Government of July. He did more than play the public man—he devoted himself heart and soul to his vocation. He bestowed very little of his time to gaiety—much of it to business. He studied the relations of his native country with the rest of the world; penetrated the secrets of the European Cabinets; and finally, by a laborious apprenticeship, made himself a consummate master of his art.

In 1841 the abdication of M. Jules Desaugiers left vacant the directorship of the commercial transactions of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which was forthwith confided to M. Drouyn de Lhuys. In the following year M. le Duc de Praslin passed from the Chamber of Deputies to the House of Peers; and the electors of the department of the Seine et Marne were convoked to choose a successor. The new Director of Commercial Affairs presented himself as a candidate, and was immediately elected.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys never sold himself to party, but acted entirely from his own convictions and his own sense of right; and never hesitated publicly to disavow any proceeding which he deemed contrary to the interests and dignity of his country. Up to the revolution of February he sat in the Centre Gauche, amongst the opponents of the unpopular Cabinet which carried with it in its fall the dynasty of Orleans.

After the proclamation of the Republic, upwards of 41,000 voices called M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Constituent Assembly, in company with M. Gillaud and three descendants of Lafayette. He subsequently became one of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and in the sitting of May 24th, 1848, he, in the name of the Convention, presented a paper, of which the following was the burden:—"The National Assembly invites the Executive Commission to continue to take for its motto the unanimous wishes of the Assembly, thus worded:—*Fraternal Compact with Germany; the re-establishment of the Independence of Poland; and the Enfranchisement of Italy.*"

On the election of Louis Napoleon to the Presidency, in 1848, M. Drouyn de Lhuys received the portfolio of the Foreign-office under M. Odilon Barrot, and found that he had to grapple with two formidable questions. "There are," said he, "two duties to fulfil—two interests to maintain; on the one side the liberty of a particular nation, and on the other the



M. DROUYN DE LHUYS.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MILLER, OF VIENNA.

peace of the world. \* \* \* \* \* It was necessary to conciliate matters. The case under consideration was essentially a policy of conciliation between contending interests. The thing to be done was to sacrifice something on each side, so to give as much satisfaction as possible to both parties."

We will not dwell upon the expedition to Rome. M. Drouyn de Lhuys, who directed the secret instructions of General Oudinot, acted in this question entirely in conformity with the personal policy of the President of the Republic. He believed it to be the duty of France to re-establish Pius IX. on his temporal throne, in order to prevent the interference of the Neapolitans and Austrians. This policy, although condemned by the Constituant, was highly approved by the Legislative Assembly. A Ministerial modification took place in June, 1849. M. Dufaure was elected President of the Council, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys was replaced in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by M. de Tocqueville. Re-elected to the Legislative Assembly by nearly forty thousand votes, he resumed his business as Representative, but was a



EMBARKATION OF THE SARDINIAN CONTINGENT AT GENOA.



short time afterwards sent to London as Ambassador Extraordinary. After the taking of Rome, France confined her intervention to occupying the States of the Church; and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, in his character of Ambassador, was at length enabled to enjoy a little repose. In the following year, however (1850), affairs in Greece again called him into action. The French Cabinet demanded explanations from Lord Palmerston; numerous interviews took place between the Ambassadors, which ended in Lord Palmerston's accepting the good offices of France.

An unfortunate misunderstanding having arisen, M. Drouyn de Lhuys was recalled. Explanations were soon after made, however; and, on the 20th of June, Lord Palmerston formally accepted the convention signed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys. The French Ambassador saw with joy the most sincere and complete accord established between the two countries—due in great measure to his own efforts.

In France the political crisis grew more and more threatening. The Legislative Assembly commenced hostilities against Louis Napoleon, which ended in the famous *coup d'état* of the 2nd December. On the 9th January, 1851, the President was again elected, and the same day were published the decrees of the 20th December, 1848, and the 11th June, 1849, which reunited under one commander the National Guards of the Seine and the troops of the first division. The Assembly favoured General Changarnier, and counted on his aid in case of a rupture. His unexpected withdrawal threw them into the greatest disorder. They publicly declared they had no longer any confidence in the Ministry of the 9th of January, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys sent in his resignation.

But Louis Napoleon had not the intention of depriving himself of the services of so useful a Minister. After the *coup d'état*, which put into his hands the sovereign power, he named him Vice-President of the Senate, and a few months afterwards Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the place of M. Turgot.

We need not recall to the recollection of the reader the numerous despatches sent by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to his diplomatic agents from the commencement of the dispute between Russia and Turkey to the present time. Such a relation would comprise a complete history of the Eastern question. However much he may have deserved his recent dismissal from office, it would not only be ungenerous but unjust to deny his merits as a diplomatist.

## THE THEATRES, &c.

### PRINCESS.

If the often-mooted question whether Shakspeare's plays should be subjected to all the means and appliances for their illustration that modern art can furnish has not hitherto been settled by that supreme and ultimate court of appeal in dramatic law, the playgoing public, we fancy the production of "Henry VIII." at the Princess Theatre, will put the question to rest for ever. The sternest believer in the æsthetic simplicity of the "wretched pair of flats" that formed the scenic decoration of the period before Garrick and Kemble, will be constrained to admit that Mr. Kean, in his selection of "Henry VIII." for one of his series of grand historical illustrations, has done nothing unworthy his own fame as a manager, or derogatory to the poetic genius of the poet whom he illustrates. Besides, too, that the period of the action is one especially suited to the display of magnificent decorations, we have the evidence of Coleridge in favour of this being treated as a *show play*; and it is clear from the lengthened and detailed stage directions, the accounts of ceremonies and processions that form part of the original text of "Henry VIII.," and the selection of pompous incidents in its construction, that it was intended as such by Shakspeare himself.

The wars which had so long agitated our fair isle—which had extinguished half our noble families and decimated our bold yeomanry—had ceased. The times in which pomps and ceremonies must have been of rare occurrence, and snatched in moments of cessation from rude conflicts, were past and gone. A season of repose had succeeded, and this period was, moreover, marked with social changes, particularly favourable to the growth of luxury, to the encouragement of habits of personal expense, and to the cultivation of the people to a point at which they began, in the certainty of peaceful times, to take a greater interest than ever in the "forms and shows of things."

In selecting "Henry VIII.," we are informed by Mr. Kean, in the prefatory remarks appended to his play-bill, that he has had in view the effect of contrast with the varied character of the subjects he has previously chosen for illustration; and, with the object of rendering the effect subservient to strict historic correctness, he has confirmed his own well-trained judgment in such matters by seeking the assistance of gentlemen each in their several departments excellent authorities; and there is not, we should think, from the rise to the fall of the curtain, a single scene, dress, or decoration, for which historical authority could not be given. The play itself is excellently adapted for such a purpose, and, as we have said above, was intended for effect, and with this view Shakspeare seems to have crowded into it incidents completely suited to represent pomp and circumstance to the public eye. The curtain rises upon a view of Old Palace-yard: in this scene Wolsey enters, attended by that ceremony and state so familiar in description; and at the conclusion of Act I, in the banquet at York-house, we have the more than Royal splendour in which the proud Cardinal lived placed before us, with the introduction of an incident calling forth that splendour of the masque of which our ancestors were so fond. In the second act, in the passage of Buckingham to execution, we have a show of a more solemn sort—the terror of the glittering axe the dignity of the victim, the expression of popular interest in suffering. In the trial scene a different but grand and dignified ceremonial is placed before us in all its form, shape, and appliances. We have, moreover, in the procession to Anne Boleyn's coronation, and in the incident which concludes the play of the christening the infant Elizabeth, other ceremonies, completing a series of situations, evidently intended to be placed before the spectator's eye with all the means of decoration at the manager's command, however limited these may have been at Blackfriars or the Globe. Nay, so well adapted are these for scenic illustration, that it would almost seem that Shakspeare had foreseen the resources that would be found in Oxford-street in the nineteenth century, although the wildest dreams of the dramatist cannot have anticipated the union of scene-painting, machinery, aerial suspension, and bade-light, that are combined in the vision of *Queen Katherine*; perhaps the most beautiful effect ever introduced upon the stage—an effect so beautiful and dream-like, that it kept the audience entranced and hushed, repressing the customary tokens of applause till the lovely group of floating figures had vanished from their eyes.

Following the indications of the poet, the management of the Princess Theatre has based upon "Henry VIII." a series of gorgeous illustrations of the architecture, furniture, manners, dress, and customs of the sixteenth century—illustrations more perfect and more correct than have hitherto been presented upon the stage, alike acceptable from their splendour to the uncultivated eye of the humblest spectator, and, from their beauty and correctness, to the artist, antiquary, and historical student.

We have scarcely left ourselves space to criticise the acting of the play, although one circumstance of the performance can certainly not be passed over—we mean the return to the stage, after a long and serious illness, of Mrs. C. Kean. The reception afforded by the audience to this the first of our living actresses, was not an unworthy expression of the estimation in which she is held. The loud, hearty, and continued plaudits which greeted her entrance seemed as much the expression of respect to an accomplished lady as of admiration for a popular actress, and were so marked that Mrs. Kean was completely overcome with her feelings, and could with difficulty go on with the business of the scene. The character of *Queen Katherine* is the one in the play upon which Shakspeare seems to have expended most care: the gentleness, dignity, and womanliness that mark it were admirably represented by Mrs. Kean, who has seldom appeared to greater advantage than in the trial where the dignity of her appeal to the King, contrasted with the outbreak of temper with

which, irritated beyond endurance, she hastily leaves the Court—and in the dying scene where the patience, continuing to the end, and the still queen-like manner, gradually giving place to physical weakness, exhibited not by violent contortion of face or gasping spasms, but by the wandering eye and hesitating speech, seemed the very poetry of suffering.

The *Wolsey* of Mr. Kean must be ranked amongst the most beautiful and successful of his Shakspearian assumptions. Departing from the old conventional dignity which has hitherto been taken, we think wrongly, to be the key-note of the character, the idea of the *Priest* seems to be the primary one upon which he has based his conception. The manner of a man habitually self-restrained runs through his performance; and, although in the look which he gives *Buckingham* in the first scene you may detect the strong lurking passion beneath the surface, it is only when goaded by the Lords and in the last scene with *Cromwell* when he feels his public career to be finished, that he gives way to the expression of natural feelings—all else is calm, courtly, priestly, and restrained. Mr. Kean's delivery of the familiar speeches was perfect in its elocution and touching in its solemnity. Mr. Walter Lacy, in figure and face, looked the bluff *King Hal* to perfection; and as he sat upon the throne seemed a living Holbein.

We must not omit to record that the scene between the *Queen* and the two *Cardinals* has now been restored to the play;—containing, as it does, some of the most familiar and popular quotations from Shakspeare, and affording an opportunity of preventing one of the most beautiful tableaux in the play—an interior of the period, with all its furniture and decoration, and an artistically-arranged group of *Katherine* surrounded by her ladies. Nor must we forget Mr. Griev's Panorama of Old London, from Blackfriars to Greenwich, with its fine old ships, bright water, and gay barges, and view of the so often-mentioned old Palace at Greenwich, the scene of so much that is interesting in English history.

The success of this revival of "Henry VIII." was great, but not beyond its merits. The crowded audience must have felt that everything that care, good taste, lavish expenditure, and careful research could do for the production of this celebrated and favourite play had been done—that a grand historical drama of a brilliant period had been placed before them in the most complete form; and they were not slow or niggardly in testifying their approbation.

DRURY-LANE.—The amateur pantomime of "Guy Fawkes" was reproduced here on Friday week. It was preceded by Mr. Planche's "Romantic Idea;" and both were acted with indisputable success to a large and highly fashionable audience. Her Majesty and the Royal Family were present. The receipts were applied in aid of the funds of the Wellington College.

OLYMPIC.—Mr. Wigan has been exceedingly fortunate during his management of this theatre in his new pieces. On Monday an original drama in three acts, by Mr. Tom Taylor, was produced with perfect success. Its title is, "Still Waters Run Deep;" and the moral is exemplified in the character of a north country hero, *John Midway* (Mr. Wigan), whose usual quiet demeanour misleads his wife and household into the belief that he is "a spoon," but who proves himself in the upshot to be a man of great practical talent. He defeats a swindler, who had plotted the ruin of his domestic peace, with the utmost coolness and courage, and saves the reputation of his wife's strong-minded aunt, who had previously ruled the family. Brought face to face with the former, whom he has to identify as a forger, he compels him to light a cigar with the one that he himself is smoking, while he traces his features, and convicts him of being the guilty party. With the same sangfroid and dexterity, he tempts him on to demand a duel, and inflict the horsewhip, whereby the criminal is entrapped into the custody of an officer. The dialogue is equal to the situations—both are thoroughly powerful; and the piece may be accepted, on the whole, as exhibiting masterly skill equally in the construction and composition. Mr. Wigan, as the hero, was admirable, and was efficiently antagonised by Mr. G. Vining, as *Captain Hawksley*, so that the various collisions between them were most effectively realised.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S OLIO OF ODDITIES.—This entertainment commenced on Saturday last, in the Polygraphic Hall, King William-street, Charing-cross, which has been elegantly fitted up for the purpose. The libretto, so to speak, does great credit to Mr. E. L. Blanchard, who has excelled his former attempt in many important particulars. In rapidity and brilliancy, as well as in the number of characters, this entertainment is almost unique. The whole, too, is so artistically disposed—every point is so well introduced, and all the parts follow in such exact order, that Mr. Woodin receives as much support from the medium in which he works as the materials themselves require of illustration from his various talents. The action of the entertainment consists of a visit to the Lakes, and the *dramatis personæ* are composed of such individuals as the tourist would be likely to meet with on such an excursion. These are accompanied with a diorama of the scenery, which has been beautifully painted. Eighteen scenes are thus very effectively exhibited; among which are Kendal, Windermere, Rydal Fall, the Slate Quarry, Eskdale in a storm, Keswick, Ulleswater, Borrowdale, and Carlisle. The impersonations have been in general well adapted to Mr. Woodin's light and graceful style, which much resembles that of Mr. C. Mathews, and is, in some cases, quite equal to its prototype. Mr. Woodin is a dashing member of the "fast" school; and, in the patter and clatter class of song, is excellent. His best specimen of this sort of thing occurred in "A Chapter of Critics," which commenced with a capital portrait of Dr. Johnson as a contrast to more modern professors of the "art deteriorative," and concluded with a Murillo sketch of a boy in the gallery of a theatre, enthusiastically animated and embodied to the life. *Sir Harry Hinton*, *Mr. Theophilus Tranroad*, and *Squire Clutterbuck* are the full-length portraits in the first part; but the little bit of *Giles Joslyn* chaffing the Londoner, may be regarded as most effective. There are, also, a grand "impersonation" of *Lady Esther Evergreen*, with a song; and what is called a "daguerotype" of *Mr. Gustavus Gableton*, with a technical memory referable to the cuisine, that have proofs of vitality. In the second part, our memory dwells on *Mr. Cymon Sensitive*, and the gorgeous appearance of *Middle Thersie*—the make-up of the latter being astonishing. The concluding character is that of *Clown*, in proper costume, imitating the *Senora Perea Nina*; with which piece of exaggeration Mr. Woodin brought down his curtain to the unanimous applause of a crowded house.

## MUSIC.

THE Concert of the PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY, on Monday last (the fifth of the season) was very fully attended. It was of remarkable excellence, both in the instrumental and vocal departments. The two symphonies were chefs-d'œuvre of their respective authors: one was Mozart's in E flat; the other Beethoven's Pastoral. Chopin's beautiful pianoforte concerto in E minor—a piece which has seldom been heard in this country—was played by M. Charles Hallé with the utmost perfection of style, expression, and execution. The overture to Wagner's much-talked-of opera, "Tannhäuser," was performed under the direction of the composer, the conductor of the Philharmonic Concerts. It was most carefully executed, and listened to with much curiosity and interest. Opinions were much divided with respect to its merits. Some deemed it, though wild and eccentric, a work of originality and genius, while others condemned it *in toto*. For ourselves, we did not, nor do we now, feel disposed to speak dogmatically. Every one acquainted with music is aware of the uncertainty of hasty opinions, and their liability to be changed by better acquaintance with the subject. We found in this composition some beautiful and striking effects, mingled with (as it seemed to us) much obscurity and confusion; but how far this obscurity may be dissipated by further hearing we do not at present pretend to know. The vocal performers were *Mdlle. Jenny Ney* and *Signor Belletti*, who sang with their usual excellence and success.

Madame Anna Thillon, who is about to take a final leave of the stage, has begun a series of farewell performances at the Lyceum, of which theatre Mr. Allcroft is now the lessee. The retirement of this captivating performer will be no small loss to our musical stage. She has not been driven to this step by the decay of her powers, or the loss of her attractive qualities. But still she is acting wisely: it is better for performers to withdraw, leaving regret behind them, than to linger on the stage till they become objects of neglect. Madame Thillon gave the first of these farewell performances on Wednesday evening, when she appeared in her favourite part of *Catarina*, in Auber's most popular comic opera, the "Crown Diamonds," which (mainly through the charms of her acting and singing) has long been familiar to the English public. Her performance was as delightful as ever. Her neat and trim figure, comely features, and fresh and flexible voice, showed

how lightly the hand of time is laid on her; and she sang with all the brilliancy, and acted with the arch and playful grace for which she has ever been distinguished. Her success was triumphant; and all the more complete from being achieved entirely from her own efforts: for we must say that she was very poorly supported, and that Mr. Allcroft ought to have made some efforts to muster a more efficient company.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

If newspapers were printed by magic, if the composing-stick were a fairy wand, or half-a-dozen cabalistic words sufficed to transform white paper into letter-press and engravings, it might be possible to give in a weekly paper the criticism of all that has happened during the week. But as the public will buy the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS and as the paper itself is, woodcuts and all, not exactly a flying sheet, the turning it out in a marketable form must take no inconsiderable time, so that the best-disposed journalist cannot pretend to write up his criticisms and details to the facts of the Friday night. This is my excuse for having only now to speak of the amateur performance at Drury-lane Theatre on the 11th. I forget what General was complimented, either by his Sovereign, the Speaker of the House of Commons, or somebody who wanted an appointment on his staff, by being told "that he had made past glory doubtful, and future fame impossible." Were I inclined to hyperbolic praise, I would say as much of the amateurs who performed the "Romantic Idea," and the Pantomime on Friday night. In the first place, surely never was such an audience collected under the roof of a theatre. The entire pit was turned into stalls—let at first at enormous, and finally at fabulous, prices: fancy £5 being paid for a very narrow chair in the remotest part of Drury-lane pit! Even more was received (as a favour, too) in several instances. People who usually look for private boxes had to content themselves with the gallery. The Queen, too, occupying with her suite two private boxes in addition to her own, was present from the rising of the curtain till after it fell. That her Majesty was highly gratified was quite visible from her manner, and put beyond doubt by her gracious and graceful expression of approval. For the performers, all I will say is, what they did well at the Olympic, they did better on the larger stage, and that the *luxure* of costume and scenery was such as few people could have expected in a performance got up for a single night. As I have heard it said that such extreme costliness of decoration was hardly justifiable, considering that by just so much the advantage to the charity (the Wellington School) which was to benefit by the surplus would be diminished, I will mention that the managers were treated by every one concerned, from the lessee of the theatre to the furnisher of wigs, with a liberality that almost put an end to the idea of profit. A great deal was done absolutely gratis—the fittings of the Queen's box and anterooms, all of the greatest beauty, by Jackson and Graham, for instance; and the hundreds of yards of red cloth for the staircases, lent by the Crystal Palace Company; and finally the flowers, for which the Duke of Devonshire allowed the conservatories at Chiswick to be pillaged *à volonté*. It was certainly a great success, both before and behind the footlights; but successes of this kind are not to be had for nothing; and the getting up of such a night's entertainment, involving the rearrangement of the whole audience part of the house—the being continually insulted by their meekest friends when disappointed of places (as they necessarily were, seeing that about three times the number of people that the house would hold wanted to come), the new scenery, the dresses, the ballet, the drilling some sixty or seventy amateur *supers*, must have given the managing committee quite enough fatigue to make them not regret that the thing is over.

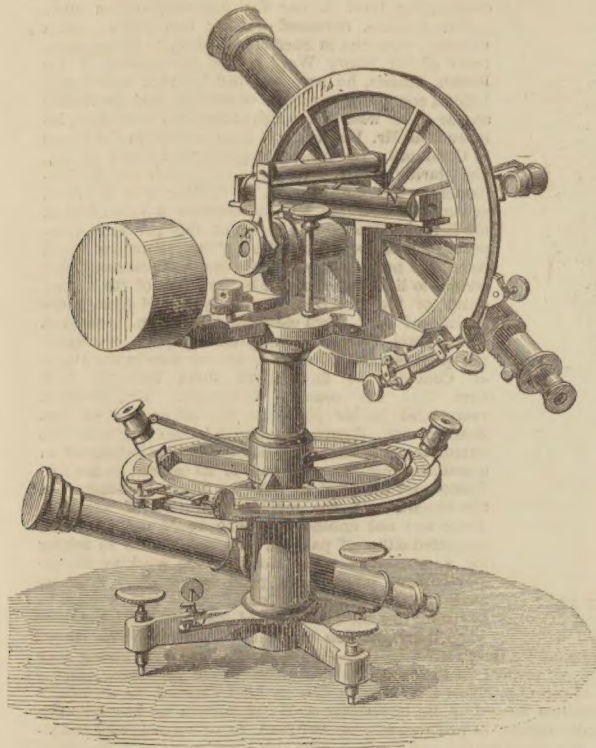
That rarest of all events, a field day in the House of Lords, occurred on Monday night. A discursive series of motions, introduced in an equally discursive speech by Lord Ellenborough was the cause; the result was a considerable strengthening of Ministers, inasmuch as they had by far the best of the debate (partly because their opponents by no means agreed among themselves), and finally won the division by a very large majority. It is hardly my province to speak of politics, except incidentally. My chief object in alluding to this debate, is to give an explanation, which I have not yet seen done, of an allusion of Lord Lansdowne, Lord Ellenborough, not in very good taste, told a story of the Duke of Wellington having some twenty-eight years ago (when on the East Retford case, the Canningites seceded from the Duke's Government) refused to give Lord Palmerston an answer, on the plea that he "did not choose to fire great guns on small birds;" Lord Lansdowne, in reply, said that he could, if he chose, relate an equally amusing speech of the Duke's, about Lord Ellenborough himself, but would not. It would be a pity that any one should be ignorant that Lord Lansdowne alluded to the Duke having said, in his rough, soldierly way of the then Governor-General of India, *apropos* to his grandiloquent language on the subject of the gates of Somnauth, "Hanged if he isn't a regular Brummagem Napoleon." One circumstance was mentioned by Lord Lansdowne, which, if correct, and he assured the House that he had every reason to believe it was so, gives hope that the drain of the war even on those resources which she is best provided with, must soon begin to tell on Russia. He told the House that the loss of men to that power, since the commencement of hostilities, was stated in official documents to be not less than 240,000! Of course a very small portion of these have fallen in battle; by far the greater number have dropped down, wasted and worn out by fatigue, by hunger, or by disease, as their regiments wound their slow length along the immense plains and morasses of the interior of the empire. They were not the less a serious loss to the Emperor Alexander's military force; and, if we take into consideration the drain of money which must be continually going on—taking it as equal to what France and England are spending on similar objects, it cannot amount to less than seventy millions a year—there seems some reason to hope that before long Russia may be compelled by sheer exhaustion to consent to such terms as the Allies may think fit to impose upon her. The real strength of the Western Powers lies in the fact that their command of money is practically unlimited. No doubt taxation presses heavily, yet no one denies that without any thing approaching to ruin we can support it even in an increased ratio for many years to come; while the credit of the two countries is so good that while there is a five-pound note in any strong-box, it will always be lent on the security of their good faith. This is by no means the case with Russia.

It is sometimes good to be an ill-used man. A few years ago church-rate martyrdom was quite a popular method of raising the wind; you had only to refuse conscientiously to pay a levy of one-and-tence, to go to prison thereupon for a few weeks or months, as the case might be; and when you came out, you found a couple of thousand Consols standing in your name, and an amount of popularity belonging to you which gave you a fair chance, if so inclined, of representing your native town in Parliament. It now appears that it is no bad thing to be ill-used by the Government. It will be in the recollection of most people that Mr. Thomas Kennedy, a Right Honourable Commissioner of Woods and Forests, was, some little time ago, dismissed from his office in a very summary way; and many people certainly thought him an ill-used man. It appears by a letter published in the *Daily News* that a magnificent benefactor has made up to him at least the pecuniary loss, by settling upon him an annuity of twelve hundred a year. Mr. Kennedy states the fact, but is not permitted to mention the donor's name. The reason for this princely gift is stated in the document conferring it to be the belief that Mr. Kennedy was dismissed from his post "mainly for his inflexible zeal in the discharge of the duties of that office, in promoting the welfare of the country at the sacrifice of influential patronage." Altogether, the transaction is a most remarkable one.



ARAGO THE ASTRONOMER.

It is an indisputable fact that there is no name so intimately associated with the triumphs of physical science in the present century as that of the late François Arago. This unparalleled reputation of the French savant is due to a combination of various favourable circumstances. While his high intellectual qualities and the importance of his researches on several subjects of physics assured to him a place among the most eminent of his contemporary labourers in the same fields of inquiry, he was no less distinguished by his incessant efforts to familiarise the minds of all classes of society with the brilliant achievements of modern science. He possessed qualifications which, indeed, eminently fitted him for the office of a popular high priest of nature. Endowed with mental powers of essentially a deductive character,—at once ardent, eloquent, and enthusiastic,—he enjoyed especial delight in unlocking the precious treasures of science, and exposing their varied and exquisite beauties to the admiring gaze of the world. His career in life was also highly favourable to the development of this peculiar bent of his mind. As Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences, it was his duty to pronounce *eloges* on eminent men, formerly members of that body. It will be obvious, from a cursory perusal of some of these compositions, that they were eminently adapted to the display of Arago's peculiar excellences of style. While lively and dramatic in narration, and always eloquent in his advocacy of the great interests of science, his expositions of scientific discovery are perfect models of chaste and lucid writing. The course of lectures on astronomy, which he was in the habit of delivering annually at the Observatory at Paris, furnished him with a still more appropriate field for the exercise of his talents as a popular expounder of science. These lectures were always listened to with breathless attention, by a crowded audience. With admirable perspicuity, and in a flow of sustained eloquence, he explained the grand phenomena of the celestial bodies, seizing intuitively on every occasion the most salient points of his subject, and bringing home his conclusions to the minds of even persons unacquainted with the technicalities of science with a force of conviction which it was impossible to resist.



ALTITUDE AND AZIMUTH INSTRUMENT. BY M. FROMENT.

The complete works of this distinguished philosopher are now in course of being published at Paris, by MM. Gide and J. Baudry, and a copyright translation has been announced by Messrs. Longman and Co., as about to appear in this country simultaneously with the volumes of the original. It is well known that for several years before his death M. Arago had devoted much of his time to a careful revision of all his writings, with a view to their definitive publication in a complete form. This circumstance will account for the deep interest which has been excited in the scientific world by the actual realisation of an object so ardently cherished by the illustrious philosopher.

According to the plan of publication adopted by the French publishers, the complete works of Arago will be comprised in fourteen volumes octavo. Three of these volumes will be devoted to biographical notices of eminent men of science, four volumes to a treatise on popular Astronomy, four volumes to critical discussions of certain subjects of physics, two volumes to scientific memoirs of a more formal character, and, finally, one volume to reports and short essays of a miscellaneous nature.

The three volumes of Biographical Notices have already been published in the original. The subject-matter of the first two volumes consists chiefly of the *eloges* pronounced by Arago before the Academy of Sciences, being a series of masterly dissertations on the lives and scientific discoveries of a number of distinguished individuals whose names are familiarly known throughout the civilised world. It suffices to mention the names of Volta, Fresnel, Young, Watt, and Carnot, to be convinced of the interest with which every page of these volumes is replete. Some of these interesting biographical sketches have already been published; but in several instances the new edition has been enriched with notes, which greatly enhances its value. There are other *eloges* contained in these volumes, which have not hitherto been given forth to the world, such as those of Poisson, Ampère, and Condorcet. The first volume of these Biographical Notices contains an interesting sketch of the life and labours of Arago by his attached friend the illustrious Baron Humboldt. When Arago arrived at Marseilles, in 1809, after an absence of three years from France, the first letter which he received was one from Humboldt congratulating him upon his safe return to his native country. Then commenced an intimate friendship between these two distinguished men, which continued without interruption till the death of Arago. The following tribute paid to the memory of the latter by his surviving friend is highly honourable to both parties:—

"What distinguished this extraordinary man was not merely the power of genius which produces and fertilises, or that rare penetration which knows how to develop new and complex ideas with the same ease as if they had been long the property of the human intellect; it was also the attractive blending of the force and elevation of a passionate character with the warmest tenderness of feeling. I am proud to think that, by my affectionate devotion, and by the admiration which I have constantly expressed in all my works, I have belonged to him during a period of forty-four years, and that my name will be occasionally pronounced in connection with his great name."

The introduction by Humboldt is followed by an autobiography which Arago drew up before his death, and which is now for the first time published. A translation of this charming little production by Professor Powell has recently emanated from the establishment of Messrs. Longman and Co. Besides containing a graphic account of the author's early education, and of his subsequent adventurous career in Spain and Africa, it reveals to us some interesting views of the state of society in the scientific circles of Paris when Monge, Lagrange, and Laplace were in the height of their fame. When Arago first arrived in Paris, being then a very young man, he was naturally much gratified by the attention which he received from Laplace, having conceived an intense admiration of the great geometer from a perusal of his works while still residing in the provinces. He confesses, however, that his feelings of reverence for the illustrious author of the "*Mécanique Céleste*" were rudely disturbed on one occasion when, having been at his house, he heard Madame Laplace, approaching her husband, say to him—"Voulez-vous me confier la clef du sucre?"

The biographical notice of Bailly, contained in the second volume, will be read with intense interest. It is well known that the illustrious historian of astronomy, having imprudently involved himself in the political storms of the Revolution, fell a victim to the fury of the populace in the year 1793. In giving an account of the circumstances connected with his execution, Arago points out several inaccuracies which Thiers has committed in his "*History of the French Revolution*," the tendency of which is to represent the conduct of the populace towards their illustrious victim as odious in the highest degree. Every one who has read Thiers's work must recollect many

similar passages in which the author attempts to vilify the multitude whom shortly before he did not scruple to employ as the instruments of his ambition. It must be borne in mind that the "*History of the French Revolution*" was written subsequently to the year 1830, when its author, having been appointed to a high office in the Government of Louis Philippe, no longer found it convenient to identify himself with the class which had mainly contributed to the Revolution of July. What a striking contrast does the conduct of Arago offer to that of Thiers! Whatever opinion may be entertained respecting the political sentiments of the illustrious philosopher, it is impossible to deny that he was consistent to the end of his career, and that he never evinced the slightest disposition to sacrifice principle at the shrine of self-aggrandisement. The third volume of the Biographical Notices is devoted exclusively to an account of the lives and discoveries of eminent astronomers. The subject-matter of this volume, with the exception of only a very small portion, has hitherto been unpublished. The reader cannot fail to peruse with deep interest the brilliant sketches which it contains, of the intellectual achievements of Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Picard, Roemer, Halley, Herschel, and a multitude of other distinguished individuals.

MM. Gide and Baudry have also published one volume of the "*Astronomie Populaire*." Of all the works which Arago had prepared for the press this was undoubtedly the one which he regarded with the greatest partiality. A French writer has prettily designated it as "the cherished offspring of his old age" (*l'enfant chéri de sa vieillesse*). It embraces a complete exposition of the great truths of astronomy, and is written in a style adapted to the comprehension of persons who have not the advantage of any previous training in scientific studies. It may be considered as embodying the substance of the course of lectures on astronomy which Arago was in the habit of delivering annually, with such brilliant éclat, at the Observatory of Paris. The volume which has just appeared is chiefly devoted to an exposition of the sublime truths which have been established by the researches of modern astronomers relative to the magnitudes, distances, and physical constitution of the fixed stars.

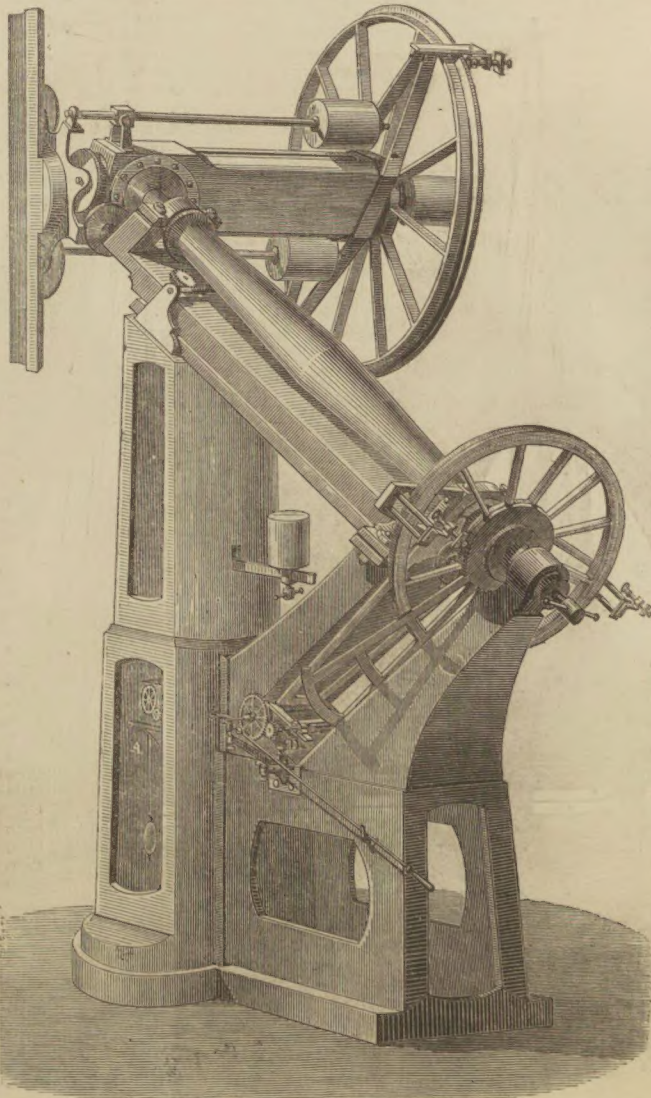
It is impossible, even upon the most cursory glance at the pages of this volume, not to be struck with the fascinating style of the author, and the unrivalled simplicity of the illustrations, by means of which he has rendered the astounding revelations of astronomical discovery easily accessible to any person of ordinary intelligence. The work, when completely published, will unquestionably form the most valuable contribution to popular astronomy which has hitherto appeared in any country. It ought to be mentioned, that the volumes are got up in an extremely handsome style—the publishers, apparently, sparing no expense to render the work in every respect worthy of its illustrious author. The same remark is applicable to the three volumes of Biographical Notices which we have alluded to, as having been already published.

We annex two Engravings, which have been chosen from among the many beautiful illustrations contained in the "*Astronomie Populaire*." The first represents an Altitude and Azimuth Instrument constructed by the French artist M. Froment. It consists essentially of two divided circles, one adjusted in a horizontal and the other in a vertical position. By observing the heavenly bodies with this instrument, the astronomer is enabled to fix the exact position of the meridian, and to ascertain the time with great precision. The Altitude and Azimuth Instrument is of indispensable use in all those great geodesical operations which have been undertaken in various parts of the world for the purpose of arriving at an accurate knowledge of the magnitude and figure of the earth.

The second figure represents the mounting of the great Equatorial Telescope which has been recently constructed for the Observatory of Paris. The object of this mechanism, which is due to the eminent French artist, M. Brunner, is to give the telescope a smooth and uniform motion from east to west, upon an axis which is parallel to the earth's axis, the velocity of rotation being exactly equal to the apparent diurnal motion of the stars. By this arrangement it will be easily seen that when once a celestial object is brought into the field of view of the telescope, it will remain visible there during the whole of the interval of its continuance above the horizon; and by this means the observer may examine at leisure its various physical peculiarities. The instrument is surmounted by a revolving dome, having an aperture which enables the observer to direct the telescope to any region of the heavens which he may choose to examine.

The drawings of the equatorial telescope and the revolving dome are engraved upon steel. The same is true with respect to the representations of solar spots, comets, nebulae, &c. Charming celestial charts, containing the various constellations generally admitted by astronomers, and including all the stars down to the sixth magnitude, have been constructed from the most recent authorities by the learned editor, M. Barral; and, besides being also engraved upon steel, are adapted to the octavo form of the volume. We might cite, also, an engraving executed from a photographic image of the sun, obtained by MM. Fizeau and Foucault, and a detailed description, accompanied with two engravings, of the ingenious apparatus of M. Foucault for demonstrating the diurnal rotation of the earth.

The greater number of the subjects treated of in the volumes of Scientific Notices have already been given forth to the world from time to time in the annual series of the "*Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes*." Many of these have excited deep interest in the scientific world by the ability which the author exhibits in grouping together under one point of view a number of apparently isolated phenomena. One would be apt, however, to form a very imperfect idea of these admirable essays from a perusal of them as they were originally published in the "*Annuaire*;" the author having, previously to his death, subjected them to extensive modifications, so as to adapt them to the present state of science. One of the volumes embracing these *Notices* devoted to the subject of meteorology, will shortly be published; and Messrs. Longman have announced that the English translation by Colonel Sabine will appear about the same time.



MOUNTING OF EQUATORIAL. BY M. BRUNNER.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

War Department, May 16, 1855.

Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.

Before Sebastopol, May 1.

My Lord,—I have little to report to your Lordship to-day.

The Russians continue actively engaged in covering their advanced works, and they have constructed a new battery on their left of the Mamelon; troops are constantly in motion on the north side, and there is every appearance of the establishment of a very large camp on the plateau above the Belbec, extending towards Mackenzie's Farm.

No movement has been perceived on the Tchernaya.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that the 3rd Regiment of Buffs has arrived at Balaclava, and that the *Alma*, having the draught of the Guards on board, reached Kazutch Bay yesterday; she has proceeded to Balaclava to-day.

I enclose the list of casualties to the 29th ult.

I have, &c.,

The Lord Panmure, &c.

RAGLAN.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES KILLED, FROM THE 23RD TO THE 29TH APRIL, INCLUSIVE.

Sergeant.—49th Foot: Henry Haden.  
Privates.—7th Foot: Thomas Byrne. 14th: Matthew Briody. 23rd: James Harvey. 30th: Thomas Walsh. 33rd: William Ryan. 34th: Richard Pinkard. 41st: John Conolly and John Keane. 48th: Thomas Richardson. 49th: John Burke. 49th: William White. 50th: Thomas Dalton and John Flynn. 62nd: Patrick Donovan. 97th: Michael Crough. Royal Artillery: Gunner William Henderson, Acting Bombardier James Gunn.

NOMINAL RETURN OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES WOUNDED FROM THE 23RD TO 26TH APRIL, INCLUSIVE.

Sergeant.—9th Foot: James Moss, severely.  
Corporals.—19th Foot: Thomas Keating, slightly. 30th: Alexander Cole, slightly. 49th: Thomas Willis, slightly. 89th: William Love dangerously.  
Lance-Corporals.—55th: Edmund Burke, slightly. 88th: Henry Hueston.  
Privates.—2nd Batt. 1st Foot: Peter Scully, slightly. 4th: George Oake, severely. 7th: Charles Firth, severely. 9th: Patrick Power, slightly. 10th: William Harrison, mortally (since dead); Patrick McGovern, severely; William Lock, Thomas Woodhall, and Patrick Canty, slightly. 19th: Edward Tyler and Michael Tolan, severely. 20th: Sydney Johnson, slightly. 23rd: William Taylor, and Lock Haynes, severely. 30th: Michael McGuire, slightly. 33rd: Owen Callaghan, severely. 34th: William Gorman and Joseph Mansfield, dangerously; James McGowan and George Archison, severely; John Roach, Ralph Hincose, Thomas Lovejoy, and Christopher Rostron, slightly. 38th: Edward Manson, John Miller, and John Pukett, severely. 41st: Jason Kennedy, dangerously (since dead); Denis Connell, Thomas Davis, Denis Rogan, John Thomas, John Sullivan, and Michael Conway, severely; Patrick Kearney, John McReady, Patrick O'Halloran, Patrick Tremble, and James Kennedy, slightly. 47th: James Clancy, dangerously; John Tully, and Patrick Griffin, severely. 48th: Robert Berwick, severely. 49th: Robert Thompson, dangerously (since dead); John Delaney, slightly. 55th: John Taylor, dangerously. 57th: Martin Stagpool, severely; Samuel Hill and John Bardon, slightly. 62nd: David Amos, George Simpson, and John McLaughlin, severely; Patrick Mark, slightly. 68th: John Rogerson, severely. 77th: James Powell, dangerously. 88th: Patrick Foley, severely. 89th: Thomas Dixon, severely. 90th: Peter Hepburn, Joseph Harper, and William Miller, severely. 97th: William Quant and Michael Maloney, severely. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Thomas Parkin, dangerously. Royal Artillery: Acting Bombardier Robert James, slightly; Gunner John Mays, severely.

A RETURN OF CASUALTIES IN THE ROYAL NAVAL BRIGADE, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, IN THE WEEK ENDING 27TH APRIL.

Killed.—Benjamin Taylor, A.B., Queen.  
Wounded.—Robert Baker, ord., Queen, dangerously; William Clarke (2nd), ord., Queen, slightly; John Collins, ord., London, slightly; George Boyle, A.B., Queen, slightly.  
Contused.—Lieut. A. A. Douglas, R.M.A., slightly; Gordon Smith, A.B., Leander, slightly; Jeremiah Mahoney, ord., Rodney, slightly; John Gordon, ord., Queen, slightly.

H.M. FLOATING BATTERY, "THUNDER."

We this week give an illustration of one of the Floating Batteries in a finished state, four of which are now nearly ready for sea—two are fitting out at Sheerness, and two at Woolwich, for service in the Baltic. Though extremely heavy in appearance, the external forms of these vessels is as good as could be desired for the purposes for which they are intended, a service where neither speed nor beauty of mould is required.

The vessels consist of a perfectly-built and strongly-framed wooden ship, of great durability, encased from the gunwale to a little below the water line, with hammered iron plates of four and a half inches thickness, and considered capable of resisting, even at close quarters, the effects of the heaviest shot. It was originally intended to cover the deck with the same material and of the same thickness; but, from miscalculation as to the weight of this suit of armour, this idea has been abandoned, from the fact of the vessels drawing now without their guns as much water as it was intended they should when perfectly equipped for sea. A wider beam would have overcome these difficulties, and have given space for some efficient means of ventilating the vessel when in action. The mooring chains descend from hawser holes below the water line, so that the cable will be out of the reach of shot. They are pierced with ports for fighting twenty-eight guns; but what armament they will carry is at present undecided. In the trial trips they have proved themselves tolerably fast, and also capable of towing other vessels; but their effectiveness for the purposes for which they are intended is generally doubted. Their dimensions, &c., are as follow:—Length between the perpendicular, 172 ft. 6 in.; beam, 43 ft. 5 in.; depth of hold, 14 ft. 7 in.; tonnage, 1469; power, 150 horses. The *Thunder* was built by Messrs. Mare and Co., of Blackwall, and the engines by Messrs. Maudsley. Many exaggerated accounts having appeared in the papers respecting the destruction of the *Etna*, the following letter from Mr. Scott Russell, her builder, will throw the best light on the occurrence:—

SIR,—As accounts of the fire in my dockyard have been published which may give exaggerated impressions of a calamity in itself sufficiently serious both to the country and to myself, I beg you will do me the favour to give such prominence as you think fit to the following exact statements of fact, which may, I hope, serve to moderate the anxiety of friends on my account and of owners of steam-ships building by me, who in distant countries may hear of this calamity without knowing its limits:—

1. No ship was burnt on that occasion, except the steam battery; but that was hopelessly destroyed.
2. Two ships on each side of the battery were injured, but only slightly, so that the injuries of one will probably be remedied in a week, and the other in a fortnight.
3. All the other ships in the building-yard escaped without the slightest injury, including the great ship of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company.
4. The whole of the buildings and machinery of the establishment escaped without injury, and continue uninterruptedly at work.
5. The battery and the other ships now in the yard are covered by the insurances I am in the habit of making for the benefit of those who intrust me with the construction of ships for them, to the extent of £110,000. It is, however, true that the loss by the battery is not entirely covered by insurance, as the ships building in the yard at the time of the fire exceeded the amount above stated. But a large proportion of the value is insured.
6. Besides this insurance, the works themselves, and the machinery they contain, are insured to the extent of £100,000.
7. Owners of ships now on the stocks at Millwall should not, therefore, be alarmed for the safety of their property by the exaggerated statements they may have heard; and my own friends will, I hope, allow me, in thanking them for their ready sympathy, to assure them that, excepting the vexation which I naturally feel in losing all the thought and labour it has cost the executive of my establishment and myself to do our work well, and my distress in disappointing the just expectations of our Government that I would execute successfully one of the works destined for the defence of the country, I shall not be a sufferer to any considerable extent. I must add that, but for the successful exertions of the Fire Brigade, of the authorities of Deptford Dockyard, and of the foremen and workmen of Millwall; and, further, for two providential circumstances—the steady direction of the wind towards the water, and the spontaneous launching of the battery while in flames, the conflagration could not have failed to have become much more serious.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Millwall, London, May 5.

J. SCOTT RUSSELL.

MR. ROEBUCK, M.P.

THE public is always in a hurry: the public which cried out for an inquiry into the administration of the war is now clamouring for that inquiry to come to a conclusion. "Why don't you make a report?" is now the somewhat indignant question addressed to that "Sebastopol Committee" which only sat about forty days (to investigate the system that has grown up in ages), and which had yet become too old to be popular. In this phase of popular impatience there is nothing new. When you commence a revolution you cannot expect your public to stand still. The Sebastopol Committee served the purpose of the moment: it is succeeded by a still more elaborate protest against "the system"—the "Administrative Reform Association." Already all men are inquiring—What next? As the originator of the Sebastopol Committee—



the first stage of the new organisation of national reform—Mr. Roebuck becomes an historical personage; and we are the more inclined to watch that hon. and learned gentleman at the present moment, on finding, after a study of his significant career, that he has all his life been leading up to the movement which seems now virtually commenced. For Mr. Roebuck has spent his life in England, in aiding in the abolition of class Government, and we may naturally look for that career being consummated consistently, in participating in an effort to abolish Government by a class. Mr. Roebuck has been in Parliament about twenty years. During the whole of that period he has been one of the most active, best known, most popular, and most respected, members of the House of Commons. He has been all that time sacrificing professional honours, literary ambition—all the prizes of the ordinary lives of able men—to the public service—to a conscientious discharge of his duties as an elected deputy of the people. It has been known, he never concealed it from his constituents, that he has always thought that the "popular" member might be most useful in office; and as his means were notoriously not large, he seemed precisely that class of man whom the Sovereign ought to reward for public services by high office. But Mr. Roebuck, with all his ability, all his experience, and a fame for public honesty and political purity singularly high, has never received one farthing of the public money—has never for a day, in all the accidents of political change, held any, even the most subordinate, office. Why? Because Mr. Roebuck, as the independent member and conscientious reformer, was necessarily opposed to the two parties into which the governing aristocracy have ever divided themselves. The life of such a man is, therefore, an illustration of "the system" on which the country is now making war; the country considering that "the system" is an alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Czar of Russia.

Mr. Roebuck is of a family, not noble in the aristocratic sense, but illustrious in the best sense. He is the grandson of the celebrated savant Dr. Roebuck, famous in his time as the partner and co-worker of Watt in those great undertakings in Scotland and in Birmingham in which the steam discoveries of Watt were first brought to a business application; and on the mother's side Mr. Roebuck boasts a gentle descent from the poet Tickell, the friend of Addison. Mr. Roebuck now sits in the House of Commons for the place (Sheffield) where his family have been eminent and honoured citizens for many generations.

Born in India (in 1801), he was bred in England, and studied the law in the Temple with the intention of practising in the colony of Canada, where his apparently migratory father had eventually settled. But it was a busy and earnest time, in literature and politics in London in 1820-30; and it would appear that the eager and ambitious young student, who had established an early reputation in "advanced" circles, became too interested in the affairs of the mother country to take more than an episodic interest in Canada. The Canadas—ill-governed, discontented, undeveloped—were in agitation just then against the views and decisions of the Imperial Parliament; and, wanting a man to do in London what Franklin had done years before for the "Federal Union," they decided upon the young Mr. Roebuck's stay in England, by pitching upon him as their agent—at first a subordinate one, subsequently as plenipotentiary. He remained, and went the Northern Circuit; but though the leaders of that circuit—then Brougham and Denman—were strong Liberals, Mr. Roebuck was a marked man as a violent Radical; and, not getting into business, and finding his small presence and thin voice opposed to the progress of a young barrister, he seems to have given himself up to newspaper writing (he was a champion in the days of "the unstamped"), and to very effective Benthamite articles in the new, noisy, and greatly abused, because so very Radical, *Westminster Review*. In the Reform agitation he made himself conspicuous, for boldness of speech and philosophical views of statesmanship; and, when the bill at last passed, he stood for the generally Radical Bath, and was returned second on the poll. He remained in Parliament for five years; and, from the first, took up his peculiar position—sometimes sneeringly defined by his opponents as "Objector-General." He faced every sort of fact in politics; analysed all kinds of men; opposed and lectured Whigs and Tories; headed the rest of the



MR. ROEBUCK, M.P. FOR SHEFFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE ARMY BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.

Radicals in plain speaking; and, being still a young man, of no definitive position, and with no obvious aims, he created inside and outside Parliament a mingled feeling of detestation, wonder, admiration, and amusement. In fact, he had become a House of Commons character. But he was as independent with his constituents as with the House; an "unmanageable" man; and not being yet understood, having only reached the stage of unpopularity, he was thrown out of his seat at the general election of 1837, polling only 910 where he had formerly polled 1138.

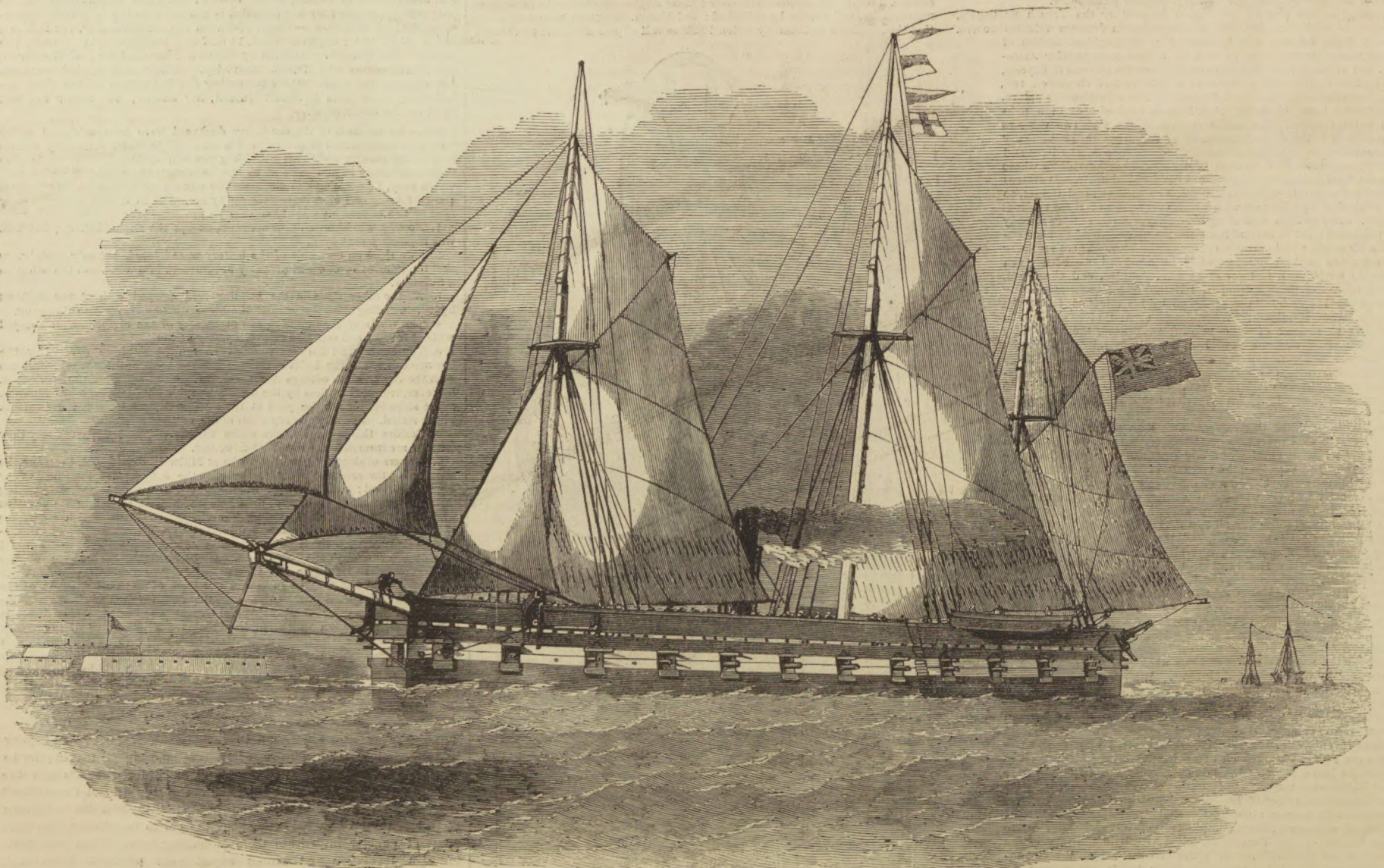
But such a man could not long remain out. He remained a public man, and took to meetings as he was denied the House. The Corn-law question was coming uppermost—the Colonial question was forcing itself on. Mr. Roebuck understood both; and by the next general election, in 1841, he had reached popularity, had ceased to be regarded as an eccentricity; and even by the Whigs, who availed themselves of his precise but pungent pen in the

*Edinburgh Review*, he was coming to be considered as "rising." Bath was in one of its Radical humours in 1841; and the 210 householders returned him and Lord Duncan by a triumphant majority against the Peelites. In that new Parliament Mr. Roebuck made himself more conspicuous than ever. There had been great electoral corruption. He pointed it out; he insisted on inquiry; he demanded committees; he even had members down at the Bar! He made 600 enemies out of the 658 members, but he pleased the public, and made his own courageous independence thoroughly comprehended. From 1841 to 1847 he was an ardent and energetic Reformer. He had got disgusted with Whig shortcomings, and was delighted with the realities of Sir Robert Peel, whom he accordingly warmly supported through all the memorable tariff changes up to Corn-law repeal. But he was moving, all this time, on Colonial Reform, Church Reform, Parliamentary Reform; daily, weekly, monthly, he was doing something to form and bring to a point public opinion on the numerous "shams" he ruthlessly laid bare. All this time he peculiarly preserved his individuality; for though an earnest Radical and a profound politico-economist, he avoided the vulgar inutility of Chartism, and he deprecated the too material influence of the newly-risen Manchester School. He had likewise held aloof from the "Tory Socialist" school of Lord Ashley; and, being opposed at Bath at the election of 1847 by that then and still popular nobleman (now Lord Shaftesbury), he had to yield to the combined influence of aristocratic and philanthropic interests, and was beaten;—the press at the time (thus indicating the high position Mr. Roebuck had attained in national estimation) severely condemning Lord Ashley for opposing such a man.

Mr. Roebuck remained out for two years; but a vacancy occurring in Sheffield, in 1849, by the appointment of Sir Henry Ward to the government of the Ionian Islands, he was returned by that thoroughly Liberal community without opposition, and the feeling at the time was, that a right thing had been done, inasmuch as Mr. Roebuck had been missed in the House of Commons. His health, however, had begun to fail, and during 1851-2-3 he was not much seen in Parliament. His constituents, re-electing him in 1852, generously besought him to retire for a time; and at his farm, in Hampshire, he spent this period in composing a "History of the Whigs," two volumes of which have been published, admirable as a political essay, and certain to live as the picture by an actor of the stormy drama of 1830-5. He was greatly missed again in the Session of 1853, when electoral corruption, exposed at the general election of the preceding year, was again the question, and when there was no man in the House of Commons to force Lord John into the bold cure that the country demanded. Mr. Roebuck reappeared in his place at the latter end of last Session; and, though his health is still infirm to that extent that the House has had to show its indulgence in a manner which was a tribute to its esteem, he has this Session not hesitated to risk his life in insisting upon the exposure of the maladministration of the war. There was not another man who would not have been suspected either of party or personal objects in asking for a committee to inquire into the working of the Government offices in a great war crisis. When he made the motion for the Committee, it was as much as anything else the conviction of his lofty patriotism and stern determination to get at the truth which caused

the national cry for an investigation—the House of Commons giving way to that cry against all the entreaties and precedents of placemen. In the chair of the Committee Mr. Roebuck has at least fulfilled the country's expectations formed on its experience of his character; he has been undauntedly earnest in probing, at whatever pain to or exposure of individuals, the whole truth; but that he does this, and has always done this, from a deep sense of his duty as an English statesman, and not from any cynicism or malignity of nature—over and over again charged against him—he has shown, by a courtesy, and even kindness, to the witnesses, which has left all of them, however passionate with the Committee, pleased with the Chairman.

Let us trust that Mr. Roebuck has still many years in which to continue and complete his service to his country; and that under the new system we are about to inaugurate he will be invited by his Sovereign to bring his wisdom and his virtue into her Cabinet.



H.M. NEW FLOATING BATTERY, "THUNDER,"—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)





BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—A DAY UNDER FIRE AT THE GREEN-HILL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE)



## A DAY UNDER FIRE.

THE men employed in working the guns, as represented in the Engraving on the preceding page, seem to take the matter very coolly. A round shot has just struck the parapet on the right hand, but the sailors are evidently no way alarmed at so every-day an incident. The following extract from a letter, dated "Camp before Sebastopol, April 15," gives a very lively description of a day under fire:—

In my last letter I told you that I was going to the trenches. Well, I went, and I had enough of it. But I suppose you would like to hear the whole story, so I shall begin at the beginning. We paraded at a quarter past six p.m. I had a bandman attached to me, to carry the pack containing lint, &c. As we are not allowed to take down our servants with our breakfasts now, I had to take everything I wanted myself. I accordingly took in my haversack a tin canteen to boil water in, and in it some tea, sugar, butter, and a tot or mug; also, in the haversack, some red herrings, biscuits, rum, and a plate and knife and fork, a little firewood, a candle, and some matches. I also had my wooden barrel, with water in it, slung on the other side, my telescope, cloak, and macintosh. Altogether, I was in heavy marching order. My orders were to stay in the surgeons' hut, and to do the best I could with the wounded. There are four assistant-surgeons in the trenches—one, an artillery man, who goes wherever he is most wanted, a naval man, and two line assistant-surgeons, who stay in the first parapet. The firing stopped for the night shortly after I went down, so I walked over the trenches to see what had been done. I did not think there was much harm, except to the battery in the advanced trench (No. 7), which had been a good deal knocked about—in fact, smashed almost entirely. The artillery surgeon told me he had to go there next day, and I must say I did not envy him. I came back to the hut, and seeing a nice soft board, I took possession, and was soon sound asleep. I got up about six o'clock, when the firing commenced. About seven o'clock I walked the artillery surgeon, with his face bandaged up. He had gone to the advanced battery at daybreak, where he had a number of men wounded, and he had got hit himself. He also said that some one must go there, as the men were being hit every minute. Well, I was rather in a fix. Being senior medical officer, I was of course asked to send some one. Now, I had been told that we were to stay in the h.t.; and if I sent any one forward, and he got hit, the authorities would have come down on me for so doing, and if any man got hit, and no help at hand, they would be equally down on me; so I thought the best thing I could do was to go myself. I accordingly went forward, and found that during the short time the other surgeon had been away five new men had been wounded. There are two batteries there, Nos. 7 and 8: No. 7 battery is much the most dangerous. So, after doing what was wanted there, I went to No. 8. The ground of it is composed of gravel and large stones, and, of course, the battery is constructed of the same material. The consequence was that every shot fired by the enemy threw up a perfect shower of stones, some of them very large; and, as they fired at us all day, every one was hit more or less, some very severely: fortunately, although this morning I am black and blue, and my back aches from a large stone that fell on it, I was not hurt. They kept me running between the two batteries all day, and most disagreeable work it was, as in one place there is no cover at all, and in getting into No. 7 there was a sort of channel which we had to run through that was always getting balls through it. The escapes we had were most wonderful. One time it was almost miraculous. I was leaning on the carriage of a gun that was loaded and run out, speaking to an artillery officer who was pointing it. He had his face on the gun looking through the sight; a shot came from the Russians, hit our gun in the bore, and knocked off two feet of the muzzle, wounding by the splinters every man of the gun's crew except two and the artillery officer and myself, four out of nine—the men literally fell all round me. Most of them were slightly wounded; but how any escaped, particularly the officer who had his face on the gun, I cannot tell. Of course we have to dress the men, or the worst cases, where they lie, and, the Russians having got your range, most likely send another shot nearly in the same place as the first. This is so well known that the rule is, in such cases, to run behind a traverse or any shelter. So does every one except the non-combatant, the doctor, who must go to his men, no matter where. To give you an instance of this:—A man got his hand blown off in No. 7. They sent for me at once, as the man was bleeding. At this time there was a perfect storm of shot coming on the unfortunate battery. I had to dart into it the best way I could. When I got there the wounded man was lying where he was hit, with another beside him, and all the rest were snugly placed behind traverses and parapets. I had had to go to the unfortunate, and it took me nearly a quarter of an hour to dress the wound, it was such a bad one, and I am sure, if one shot passed me, twenty died. This nice work lasted till about half-past six, when, as they had nearly stopped firing, I thought I might go back to the first parallel, and when I got there I found my relief had come; so I started home, precious glad to get away, and very hungry, as I had nothing but some rum and biscuit for 24 hours, cooking being quite out of the question in such a target as the advanced battery. It would be quite impossible to tell all the narrow escapes we had. A shell fell into the middle of us, but fortunately did not burst; we crowded out the fuse and found it was an English one, probably a shell of ours that had not burst, and was returned by the enemy. The noise all day was terrific. The shells from our batteries and the shot from theirs, about 300 yards distant, never ceased. We were in a capital position for hearing everything. Their practice was much better than ours. I used to climb up in an embrasure and watch our shot, which always went over their battery. This was quite safe, as they had withdrawn their riflemen, and one could always jump into the battery after they fired a gun before the shot came. You saw the flash. Our shot went too high, because the embrasures were too high, and the guns consequently could not be sufficiently depressed. And now you have the experience of a 'non-combatant' of the trenches under fire. I suppose you would like to know how I felt yesterday. Of course, no one can see men knocked down all around him, and getting wounds of which he best knows the full danger, and take it quite coolly at first, but you very soon get accustomed to it. After a bit, the four of us (officers) collected in a corner that was well covered, and made ourselves quite jolly. It seems to be all habit, and perhaps, if you could get over it once or twice, you would soon get quite accustomed to being killed.—*Letter from the Camp.*

**NAPOLEON III. AND POLAND.**—I learn from a private source that, in answer to the address presented to the Emperor by the Poles in Paris, to congratulate him on his escape from Pianori's pistol, his Majesty replied in the following unmistakable terms:—"I am deeply moved by the sentiments expressed in your address. I expected such a manifestation from you. Hitherto I have not been able to do what I could have wished for your country; but the march of events now permits me to hope that I may be useful to you, in continuing the work commenced by him whose heir I am." I am informed that the "cadres" of the Polish Legion are being fast completed; but there are striking symptoms that the impending Polish movement is to be entirely national, and not confined to the Czaristorski party, which, however respectable and patriotic, is but a party. General Rybinski himself is a democrat, and a dissident from Prince Czaristorski's politics, and for that reason he would not join in the general address, but wrote to the Emperor the separate letter which has met with such a favourable reception. M. Adam Mickiewicz, one of the deputation to the Tuileries with the Polish address, was in 1849 the *éditeur en chef* of the journal *Le Tribune des Peuples*, founded by Count Brancicki, which advocated the insurrection of oppressed peoples throughout the world. From the moment when the news of Count Walewski's appointment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was known the Poles in Paris felt persuaded that the dawn of a new era had arrived. Walewski was a Pole by his mother's side, and, although brought up in France, he fought and bled in the Polish cause in the insurrectionary war of 1831, and was decorated for his distinguished conduct at the battle of Grochow. It may not, perhaps, be generally remembered that after this battle he went to London as a diplomatic envoy from the Revolutionary Government. He then made the acquaintance of Lord Dudley Stuart, and has ever since been a member of the Polish Association.—*Letter from Paris.*

**THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSITION.**—Of the last Austrian proposition put forward since the discontinuance of the Conferences, for giving effect to the Third Point, a correspondent of the *Independence Belge* gives the following account as reliable:—"The Austrian proposition for terminating the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea proceeded less upon the principle of a reduction than upon that of equalising the forces on the sides of Russia and Turkey respectively. It limited the forces of Russia in restoring them to a figure which, it is true, was very little lower than that at which they stood before the war; but it assured to Turkey, by means of her own resources, and those of France and England, her allies, forces constantly equal to those of Russia. Thus it had neither the inconvenience of the absolute principle of *mare liberum*, which, by opening the Straits to the Russian fleet, would have permitted this to exercise a powerful and continuous influence in the waters of Greece and the Adriatic, nor the inconvenience of the principle of *mare clausum*, which would have left Turkey to contend with her own forces against Russia. In fact, it would have opened the Straits only to the fleets of France and England in the proportion necessary to maintain the forces required for the protection of Turkey at the level of the Russian forces which might menace her. Austria was ready to engage that, if these conditions were accepted by the Western Powers, and rejected by Russia, she would at once take part in the war."

**OUR LOSSES IN THE CRIMEA.**—A Parliamentary return, moved for by Mr. Locke King, gives some particulars regarding the killed and wounded in the Crimea since the commencement of the campaign. In the cavalry there were killed 11 officers, 14 non-commissioned officers, and 146 men; in the artillery 6 officers, 5 non-commissioned officers, and 35 men; in the Sappers and Miners (Royal Engineers) 1 officer and 1 man; in the infantry 64 officers, 62 sergeants, 1000 men, and 9 officers of the staff, making a total of killed of all ranks 1360. The total number of wounded was 4540—viz., in the cavalry, 21 officers, 21 sergeants, and 181 men; in the artillery, 9 officers, 10 sergeants, and 149 men; in the Engineers, 3 officers, 1 sergeant, and 9 men; in the infantry, 186 officers, 236 sergeants, and 3699 men, together with 22 officers of the staff. Of the 241 officers of all arms of the service thus wounded, 20 died in consequence of the injuries received. The number of horses killed during the campaign was 381, while those which died from other causes amounted to 1466.

The *Milwaukee Wisconsin* reports a sale of 7000 bushels of wheat at 1 dol. 75c. per bushel, and a resale at 1 dol. 85c. a few days afterwards. This is probably the highest price ever offered for such a lot in the west.

## LITERARY MISCELLANIES.—No. XIV.

## JOAN OF ARC.

THERE is a well-known German superstition which has its root in our inner consciousness—"Every man has his 'doppelgänger.'" Our second and less familiar self is occasionally revealed to us, suddenly, and in somewhat startling guise; even as by a quick turn of the head we may sometimes catch a profile view of ourselves in a mirror, when a curl of the nostril, or a quiver of the lip, in our reflected image, betrays to us the presence of some passion of whose strange might we were previously unconscious. We startle at this new presentment of ourselves, because it is not our habit to glance thus sideways at the mirror of our minds.

We walk our world-path with one unvarying plodding pace until called on by the exigencies of the rough road we traverse to diverge from our wonted monotonous action: all at once, perhaps a surging stream has to be crossed, or a yawning chasm leaped; it is then that new powers awake within us, and we, who never breasted wave before, now ply our limbs as strong swimmers use; or we achieve, to our own surprise, the strenuous bound which clears the gap. Pausing on the opposite bank, we become breathless—less with the feat itself than with amazement at our suddenly-acquired power to overstep the difficulty. We have all felt this in minor and merely physical emergencies. How much oftener have we experienced a similar feeling when higher calls have been made on our forceful spirits! Women, it may be, feel this truth more convincingly than men. The tendency of woman's education is to keep down the stronger impulses. Many a woman lives and dies unconscious of the finer forces within her; many another has survived to prove or die of them. Of such, history has its records. Let us take but one instance, and a memorable one. Let not the reader startle at the name of Joan of Arc—a hackneyed name, a desecrated name; a name revered, worshipped, traduced, reviled; a name on which has been heaped such cowardly, pitiful, and impious libels as the soul revolts at;—yet a name which to the impartial and diligent seeker after truth, comes out clear as the stars, and beautiful as clear.

Before those with whom all enthusiasm is madness, and all devotion folly, or a myth, we do not stand forward as pleaders for the pious martyr to a great cause—nay, we will grant them her delusions; for Joan was a dreamer. Let them rob her of all outward manifestations of that Divine inspiration in which she herself so devoutly believed: they are welcome to so much. Had Joan believed only in herself; in other words had she simply conceived the vast scheme of freeing France from a foreign yoke by the power of her own strong will and devoted example, the issues would, in all probability, have been different—but her merit would have been the same. The exciting influence of an apparently heaven-directed champion was needful for the guidance and control of the rude but superstitious soldiery of her time! for herself, the force of her own enthusiastic mind was sufficient. "The modest and sweet voices" of her own pure nature were at least no delusions; and such was, in truth, "all the witchcraft that she used." Whatever visions haunted her, such visions were clearly not the cause, but the effect, of that singular exaltation of mind for which she was noted, when the instincts of patriotism, born and fostered within her became roused into overmastering enthusiasm by the wrongs of her country. From first to last, that cruel page of history, the sweet, unsullied, and devoted character of the shepherd-girl of Lorraine shines out like a saving beacon across those waters of Seine on which her pure ashes were scattered. It cannot be said that she ever for one moment played upon the credulity of the age in which she lived: she was the dupe, not the deceiver. While true to others, she was true to herself. At once simple and wise, she never arrogated to herself the power to perform miracles. Her mission, as she understood it, was but to spur a flagging and worn-out cause; to place the crown on the head of one whose hand was too weak or too indolent to grasp it. To the accomplishment of thus much her enthusiasm told her she was equal: that good end once compassed, she craved but to lay down the burthen of all that was in reality foreign to her original nature, and to "return to her mother and her sister, and the care of her sheep." Twice after the crowning of Charles at Rheims did she petition for leave to seek once more the pleasant places of her youth. That her prayer was denied; that she was to be the sacrifice, as she had been the saviour, of her beloved land, was her doom, and not her ambition; for Joan did not assume the attitude of a martyr. When she laid down her arms on the altar of St. Denis, she did so with the full and firm conviction that her inspiration was gone; and she would as soon have thought of mocking that Heaven, in obedience to whose supposed commands she first took her undaunted way to Vaucouleurs, as she would for one single moment have acted in opposition to that divine spirit of truth which was with her an instinct as well as it was the chosen law of her beautiful and stainless life.

No greater nor more unjust mistake can be made than that most common one of regarding Joan of Domrémy in the light of a mere camp-heroine—a creature unsexed by the very character of her pursuit. For an evidence of how little her real nature was in accordance with the arduous task of a national liberator—a task self-imposed through a sense of duty, to which she became vowed at the early age of nineteen—and of how she bore herself in that difficult and thorny path, we have but to turn to the quaint old chroniclers of her time. When, in still earlier years, guarding her father's flocks on the hills of Lorraine, we are told that, far from giving signs of any extraordinary hardihood, she was "so bashful as to be put out of countenance whenever spoken to by a stranger." It was at that early period of her life, when noted chiefly for her tender nursing of the sick, and for her habits of solemn communing with herself in prayer, that, while "held in great subjection" by her family, rumours of her country's wars first reached her. In such a state was France at that time, that, says old De Serres, "even the cattell, accustomed to the larum bell, the signe of the enemy's approach, would run home of themselves without any guide, by this accustomed misery." Driven from her home, in company with her parents, by the fierce Burgundian soldiery, well might she, who knew so well its terrors, exclaim, "war seems no work for me." Yet, to such tasks and such scenes did she believe herself called; and from the hour when that conviction took possession of her mind—and it matters little through what influences she arrived at that conclusion—there was no relenting, no hesitation, no looking back. That second and less familiar self, to which we began by referring, became now all at once born within the solitary girl, or rather was brought out into visible play by the force of the circumstances around her. The sweet and gentle, but steady perseverance, in the rough path towards which she felt herself irresistibly drawn; the modest care for even that reputation, which her own innate purity would otherwise have been insufficient to guard from the breath of slander; the zeal with which she set about reforming the morals of the camp, till even that roughest specimen of soldierhood, La Hire, went grumbling and swearing to mass; from first to last, the patient pushing onward towards the great work in hand; each and all are calculated to fill with something akin to reverential wonder the mind, which comes unprejudiced to the contemplation of her entire history. In six short months the work of Joan was completed. That short space of time was sufficient, by the aid of her contagious enthusiasm, to raise the siege of Orleans, and to crown the effeminate and ungrateful Charles VII., at Rheims. From that time it will be seen that her own true self returned to her: and then it was that she sighed

To return to green Lorraine,  
And be a shepherd maid again.

But it was destined otherwise. She—who, in her first devoted journey to

wards besieged Orleans, had passed unscathed through a hostile country swarming with the enemy, and had been beset by the superadded danger of falling a prey to the misgivings of her own escort, who, under the impression that she must be a sorceress, were once on the point of hurling her down a stone quarry—was spared to see her work completed; and then to be betrayed by the companion-in-arms she had served, and to be deserted by the King whose throne she had secured, and who left her, without once raising a finger in her defence, to imprisonment, torture, sacrilege, and death. Entrapped, chained like a felon, exorcised as a witch, her simple truth of character never deserted her—her clear-headed answers confounded even her torturers. And here it may be said that, however abhorrent was the conduct of her English opponents, they were at least her legitimate enemies. But the persecution by her own countrymen, themselves apostates to every tie which nations hold sacred—faithless alike to their country and their King—was, in all respects, unparalleled in atrocity. Even down to a more recent period, the testimony to her worth comes from the descendants of those very opponents who, while they condemned, yet went weeping away from the sight and the scene of her martyrdom. Lord Mahon, speaking of Voltaire, and of Southey, reminds us that "the shaft of ridicule came from a French, the token of respect from an English hand." Yet even the execrable Voltaire, himself amongst her coarsest and most scandalous defamers, has put on record a just description of her arch persecutor Pierre Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais, under the title of "l'indigne Evêque, l'indigne Français, l'indigne homme!" We find elsewhere, by the pen of a recent English writer, a worthy tribute to one never yet duly honoured. "Nothing," says this writer, in allusion to her more recent historians, "can be more beautiful or affecting than their notice of Joan of Arc, with the 'voices' she heard in her pleasant days, 'mild and modest, and sweeter than music'; why, then, let drop on such a subject the imputation of insanity. If Joan was bred up amidst visions and superstitions, why charge her with insanity any more than nine-tenths of the globe? Joan was an enthusiast, and credulous, according to her breeding, and she was imaginative of the highest possibilities of all kinds, according to the nobleness of a right enthusiasm. She was a genuine saint, martyr, and most cordial human being; and Voltaire's genius ought to have blushed on every account for being so far led away by an indiscriminate zeal against the errors of creeds and conventional hypocrisies, as to condescend to write his cynical and revolting poem against her noble and affectionate memory."

Affecting, and noble, and beautiful, indeed, is the true reading of the life of Joan of Arc. And it here occurs to us to clear up one point in the account of her trial, where we think that the truth has been generally missed. Her replies to her judges—or rather executioners, for judged she was not—were, in all cases but one, simple and clear, without a suspicion of guile or a shadow of mystification. Once only is she stated to have been "vague and contradictory" in her answers; this was with regard to her first interview with the Dauphin, in the midst of his courtiers, at the besieged town of Orleans. In referring to that part of the interview which bore on the subject of the intended crowning of Charles at Rheims, she is said to have shown some confusion of mind, confounding the imaginary crown of her vision with the real one at Rheims. "In short," says a writer already alluded to, "this was clearly one mainspring of her enthusiasm, or a morbid point in her mind, where judgment and memory had been overpowered by imagination." A little further research, and a little deeper insight into the character of Joan would have thrown a clearer and a higher light on this part of her trial. The "clearness and precision" of her replies on every other point, even those which touched on her supposed visions, are a sufficient warrant for the view we take. In all else but the one subject referred to it will be seen that her answers affected herself alone: in this solitary exception it is evident that she feared to implicate the King. When first questioned on the subject, she refused to answer altogether. It is further stated that "on her trial, Joan listened in silence as long as the sermon turned upon her own character; but it was otherwise when the preacher attacked Charles, 'the man who called himself King.' 'Speak of me,' said the noble-minded enthusiast, 'but sully not the fame of the King; he is good and loyal; he is a Christian—the best in France.'" Yet she, who thought ever of others, never of herself, fell a victim to the treason of her own party—"treason that sits at our feasts, sparkles in our bowls, wears the beard of our councillors, the smiles of our courtiers, the crazy laugh of our jesters—above all, that lies hid under the friendly air of a reconciled enemy." Guillaume de Flavy! be his name an abhorrent sound for evermore to the ears of his countrymen, while that of Joan of Arc is revered through all time! "Harsh and pitiless," this traitor is represented, and a terrible retribution awaited him. His doom was to fall by the hand of his own wife. Nicholas l'Oiseleur, too, the forsworn and traitor priest, found a torturing demon in his own accusing conscience. The despicable and wretched man, one out of two alone of the assessors who voted for her being subjected to the tortures of the Inquisition, and who had even gone so far as to betray the sanctity of the confessional, as Joan passed to execution, moved by a deep remorse, threw himself in her way, to own his guilt, and to implore her forgiveness. There, in the public marketplace of Rouen, in the midst of a cruel multitude assembled to witness her last agonies, did this suffering "saint and martyr" close her devoted life? Her last act on this side death was one around which hangs a touching and mournful tenderness. As the flames increased, hissing and roaring around their sacrifice, she cautioned her confessor, Martin l'Advenu, bidding him "stand farther from her side," but still hold aloft the cross, that her latest look on earth might fall on the Redeemer's blessed sign! So died Joan of Arc; "in her death the martyr, as in her life the champion, of her country." "It is easy," says Lord Mahon, "to trace the true character of Joan. A thorough and earnest persuasion that hers was the rightful cause—that in all she had said she spoke the truth—that in all she did she was doing her duty—a courage that did not shrink before embattled armies or beleaguered walls, or judges thirsting for her blood—a serenity amidst wounds and sufferings, such as the great poet of Tuscany ascribes to the dauntless usurper of Naples—a most resolute will on all points that were connected with her mission, perfect meekness and humility on all that were not—a clear, plain sense that could confound the casuistry of sophists—an ardent loyalty, such as our own Charles I. inspired—a dutiful devotion on all points to her country and her God. Nowhere do modern annals display a character more pure, more generous, more humble, amidst fancied visions and undoubted victories—more free from all taint of selfishness, more akin to the champions and martyrs of old times."

So France was saved, and Joan was sacrificed. Her country was redeemed: even those of her own blood who had opposed her exertions in that country's cause were won at last to her side, and profited by her devotion. Her parents, present at her success during the crowning at Rheims, shared in her triumph; as did also her noble uncle Durand Laxart, who had been throughout her undoubting friend and true ally. Her two brothers fought by her side, and were ennobled when their sister was no more. Yet she, through whom they were so ennobled, and by whose devotion they were made freemen on their native soil—she, who died that her country might be truly said to live, when at last she slept the last sleep of the martyr, was denied through all that wide realm of France even so much as a little earth for a grave!

About one or two o'clock on the morning of the 7th inst., a smart shock of earthquake was felt at Perth, which lasted two or three seconds. After a brief interval, a second shock was experienced of the same duration as the first.



EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Prince Ernest of Leiningen arrived in town on Saturday night, and is staying at Buckingham Palace, on a visit to her Majesty.

The King of Portugal and the Duke of Oporto, after being present at the Paris Exhibition, intend to visit England and Italy before returning to Portugal.

The Duke and Duchess de Montpensier are to go to Italy in the beginning of June.

The King of Bavaria arrived at Rome on the 27th ult., under the incognito of Count of Augsburg, and on the next day paid a visit to the Pope.

The Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, with the youthful Prince Adolphus, arrived in town on Tuesday, on a visit to her Majesty.

The young Prince Adalbert of Bavaria has arrived in Rome. The Count de Trapani, brother of the King of Naples, has also paid a flying visit to attend the horse-races, that have just gone off very brilliantly, under the auspices of the English and French resident aristocracy.

The French Emperor and the Empress will again spend part of the summer at Biarritz. The health of her Majesty was so much benefited by her residence there last year, that sea-bathing has been again considered advisable. It is said that his Majesty intends inviting several of the august visitors at the Exhibition to accompany him to the new Imperial residence which has been built by his orders.

The health of the King of Prussia continues to improve, but he is still far from entirely restored. His Majesty's medical advisers recommend him to proceed for a few weeks to the Royal residence at Erdmannsdorf, in Silesia, where the fine mountain air will remove, they think, all the ill effects of the late illness.

Prince Albert, as the nearest agnate to the Saxe-Gotha throne, has given his assent to the Constitution of 1852. A similar assent is expected from the King of the Belgians, the King Regent of Portugal, and Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg.

The Emperor and Empress of the French have forwarded to Lady Cowley the sum of 2000 francs, towards the ball given by the committee of the British Charitable Fund in aid of the English Poor, on Tuesday last, at the Jardin d'Hyver.

The Czar has just conferred new orders and insignia, enriched with diamonds, upon Prince Gortschakoff III. (not the Commander-in-Chief) and General Khurlev for their services in the Crimea.

The King of Denmark, accompanied by the Countess Danner, intend to go this summer to Aix-la-Chapelle to use the waters of that place for the re-establishment of his health after the serious illness from which he has lately risen, and which has left him in a very weak state. He has bought a beautiful estate in the Duchy of Schleswig, for the sum of 150,000 rix dollars, and made a present of it to the Countess.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will visit Cork on Monday next, and will get a public reception from the municipal and military authorities.

Lord and Lady Stratford de Redcliffe, their two daughters, and Lady George Paget, were present at the review of the First French Corps d'Armée, by General Canrobert, on the plateau of the Round Bay before Sebastopol, on the 27th ult.

The French Emperor and the Empress, wishing to reserve to themselves at the Exhibition, the free selection of such articles as they may think proper to purchase, will not accept any offer that may be made to them.

Colonel Sibthorp now lies in a precarious state of health, at his residence in town. His condition is said to be such as to cause the utmost alarm to his friends.

The dignity of Pacha has been conferred upon Iskender Bey by Omer Pacha for his gallant services during the war.

Among the passengers by the last American steamer is the Hon. Augustus Caesar Dodge, of Iowa, the new American Minister to Spain.

Vice-Admiral Kreuger, of the Swedish navy, has invented an instrument by which the force of the winds can be measured with the greatest exactitude; and by order of the King of Sweden, it is to be exhibited in the Universal Exhibition of Paris.

Dr. George Errington, who has hitherto filled the Roman Catholic See of Plymouth, is appointed coadjutor of Cardinal Wiseman, with the title of Archbishop of Trebizond in *partibus infidelium*.

The late Cardinal Oppizzoni, Archbishop of Bologna, has left all his fortune, amounting to 100,000 scudi (£216,000), to the Banca de Misericordia, a charitable establishment in that city.

Dr. Monro, the celebrated physician in lunacy, is now suffering from that grievous malady, and in such an ill state of health as to be confined to his bed without hope of recovery.

Governor Brigham Young, of Utah territory, the high priest of Mormonism, delivered a long and impassioned harangue to the Latter-day Saints, at Great Salt Lake City, on the 18th February, denying the right of Congress to interfere with the religion of the Mormons—polygamy, of course, included.

Count Microlawski, a noted revolutionist leader of Germany, prominent in the insurrections of 1843 in Berlin and Baden, is in Halifax recruiting men for the English service in the Crimea.

The King of Sweden has nominated Marshal Vaillant, Minister of War, Commander Grand Cross of the Order of the Sword.

A duel has taken place at Pera, between the principal editors of the *Presse d'Orient* and of the *Journal de Constantinople*, in which the gentleman connected with the former was slightly wounded.

"Our Friends in Hell" is the startling title of a new publication by the Rev. J. M. Killen, of Glasgow.

The Ionian Parliament was opened by the Lord High Commissioner, with the usual formalities, on Tuesday, May 1.

Commodore Vanderbilt has reduced the price of passage in his new line of New York and Havre steamers, for first cabin from 130 dols. to 110 dols.; second cabin, from 75 dols. to 60 dols.

The South-Western Railway Company have done away with open carriages for the excursion trains. The cheapest carriages are now covered over.

A line of electric telegraph is about to be established from Wenenborg, province of Scania, in Sweden, to the frontier of Norway. It is to run along the western coast of Sweden.

The Aberdeen county meeting unanimously agreed to give the usual guarantee of £300 to the Highland Society, so as to have their meeting at Aberdeen in 1858.

A destructive fire took place at Boston on the 27th ult., involving a loss of property to the amount of nearly a million of dollars.

Preparations are made at Dover to receive a first portion of the Foreign Legion shortly expected in England.

The Government of the United States has decided that American vessels sold to strangers, and then bought back by American citizens, cannot receive papers as vessels of the United States.

Complaints are made that the Overland Indian postage via Marseilles is still maintained at 1s. 8d., notwithstanding the reduction which has taken place in the charge for the transit through France.

The picture-galleries of the palace of Versailles are henceforth to be opened to the public every day, except Mondays, from eleven to five.

The Dresden Gallery was shut on the 15th inst., for the purpose of moving the pictures to the new Museum—an operation which will probably occupy several weeks.

The Steam Collieries Association at Newcastle-on-Tyne offer a premium of £500 for the invention of an effectual method for preventing the emission of smoke from the chimneys of multitubular boilers.

The Spanish Government has issued a circular to the ecclesiastical authorities, directing them to suspend the admission of novices into convents until the number and occupation of all the nuns of Spain shall have been ascertained.

The musical festival on the Lower Rhine will this year be held at Dusseldorf, and commence on the 27th inst. Haydn's "Creation," and Dr. Schumann's "Paradise and the Peri," are in the programme.

The Prussian Government is to establish forthwith a submarine telegraph from the Prussian coast to the Island of Rugen, and thence to Ystad, in Sweden.

Workmen are at present employed in setting out the orange-trees in the garden of the Tuileries. They are about 200 in number, and were planted in the reign of Louis XIV.

The telegraph from Varna to Rustchuk is terminated, with the exception of crossing the Danube near the latter town, which operation presents some difficulty.

The gross receipts for the United States Treasury for the quarter ending on the 31st ult., reached 14,766,000 dollars, while the expenditure of the same period amounted to 15,572,000 dollars.

According to a return just published, the number of soldiers in the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, and Marines, who have purchased their discharges in the last ten years was 17,522.

All apprehension is at an end of any serious difficulty arising out of what are known in the United States as the "Cuban outrages."

CHESS.

Our customary Notices to Correspondents are postponed until next week.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 583.

WHITE. BLACK.  
1. Kt to K 6th B to Q B 8th  
(Black has a choice of moves, but none by which the Mate can be averted or delayed.) Any move.  
2. Kt to Q 4th  
3. R or Kt mates.

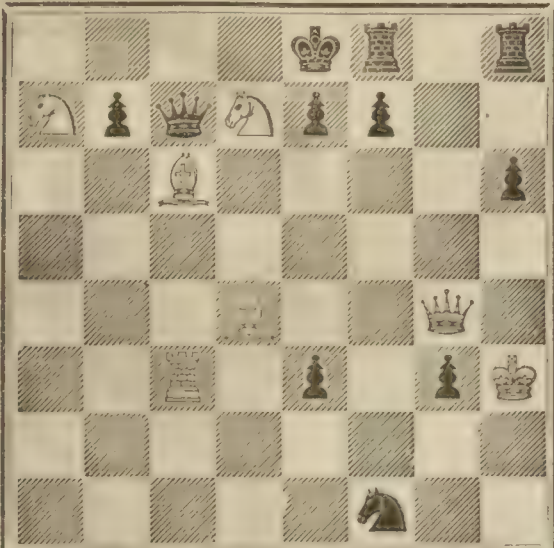
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 584.

WHITE. BLACK.  
1. K to Kt 5th P to K B 3rd (ch)  
2. K to R 5th K to K 4th  
3. B takes Kt  
4. B to Q 6th (ch)  
5. B mates

PROBLEM No. 587.

By Mr. W. GRIMSHAW.

BLACK.



WHITE.  
White to play, and mate in four moves.

CHESS IN PARIS.

Second Game in the Match between M. LA ROCHE and DE RIVIERE.  
(Irregular Opening.)

BLACK (M. de R.) WHITE (M. La R.)  
1. P to Q 4th P to K B 4th  
2. P to Q B 4th (a) K Kt to K B 3rd  
3. Q B to K Kt 5th P to K 3rd  
(b)  
4. P to K 3rd (c) P to Q B 4th  
5. Q Kt to Q B 3rd P to Q R 3rd  
6. K B to K 2nd K B to K 2nd  
7. K Kt to K R 3rd Castles  
8. Castles K Kt to Q B 3rd (d)  
9. Q P takes P (e) K B takes P  
10. P to Q R 3rd P to K R 3rd  
11. Q B to K R 4th K B to K 2nd  
12. P to Q Kt 4th Q Kt to K 4th (f)  
13. Q B to K Kt 3rd Q Kt to K 4th  
14. P to Q B 5th P to Q Kt 3rd  
15. Q B to Q 6th Q Kt takes P  
16. P takes P B takes B  
17. P takes B Q R to Q Kt sq  
18. Q R to Q Kt sq B takes R  
19. Q takes R K Kt to K sq  
20. R to Q sq Q to K B 3rd  
21. Q Kt to Q R 4th Q to K 4th  
22. Q to Q 3rd (g) Q to Q R 4th  
23. Q Kt to his 2nd Q Kt to K 4th  
24. Q to Q 4th Q to Q Kt 2nd  
25. Q Kt to Q B 4th K takes Kt  
26. B takes Kt Kt to K B 3rd  
27. Q to Q R 7th B to Q B 3rd  
28. Kt to K B 4th K to R 2nd  
29. Kt to Q 3rd Kt to Q 4th  
30. Q takes Q R P P to Q R sq  
31. Q takes Q R takes Q  
32. Kt to Q Kt 4th B to Q R 5th  
33. R to Q R sq Kt to K B 3rd  
34. P to K B 3rd P to K Kt 4th  
35. K to B 2nd K to Kt 2nd  
36. K to his 2nd K to B 2nd  
37. B to Q 3rd Kt to K sq  
38. P to K 4th Kt takes P  
39. P takes P R to Q 4th  
40. Kt to Q R 6th R to Q 4th  
41. K to Q 2nd K to B 3rd (h)  
42. K to Q B 3rd R to Q R 4th  
43. R to Q Kt sq P to K R 4th  
44. R to Q Kt 6th B to Q B 3rd  
45. K to Q Kt 4th R to Q R 5th (ch)  
46. K to Q Kt 3rd P to Q 5th  
47. Kt to Q Kt 4th P to K Kt 5th  
48. K to Q B 3rd P takes P  
49. K takes R (i) P takes P  
50. Kt to Q 5th (ch) B takes Kt  
51. R to Q Kt sq B to Q B 3rd  
52. K to his 3rd K to his 4th  
53. K to K B 2nd K to Q 5th  
54. R to Q sq K to Q B 4th  
55. R to Q B sq (ch) K to Q 5th  
56. B to K 2nd Kt to Q Kt 4th  
57. B takes Kt B takes B  
58. K takes P K to his 6th  
59. R to Q B 3rd (ch) B to Q 6th  
60. P to Q R 4th P to K B 5th  
61. P to Q R 5th P to K B 6th (ch)  
62. K to Kt 3rd P to K B 7th  
63. R takes B (ch), and wins.

(a) P to K 4th is also a safe and good move at this moment. See the "Handbook," page 381.  
(b) Q Kt to Q B 3rd is usually played.  
(c) The Pawn cannot now be thrown forward to K 4th without loss. *Ex. gr.:*—  
3. P to K 4th P takes K P  
4. Q Kt to Q B 3rd K B to Q Kt 5th  
And white may preserve the Pawn.  
(d) To us this move appears to lose a Piece. If we are right, it is strange, indeed, that a player so cautious and experienced as M. La Roche should be guilty of such a fault in the opening of a match game, and still more remarkable that his young and vigilant opponent should have failed to detect it.  
(e) If M. de Riviere, instead of so playing, had attacked the Q Kt with his Pawn, we see no possible means by which his adversary could have escaped the loss of an officer.  
For suppose—  
9. P to Q 5th K Kt to K 5th  
(His best play. If he move the Q Kt the Pawn advances to Q 6th, and wins the Bishop. If he take Pawn with Pawn, or Pawn with K Kt, the result is obvious.)  
10. Q Kt takes K Kt P takes Kt  
11. P takes Kt B takes B  
12. P takes Q P  
and wins one of the Bishops.  
(f) Since this Kt, if attacked, cannot be played advantageously either to K Kt 3rd, or to K B 2nd, his march to K 4th was a lost move, and evidently made without due consideration.  
(g) The wish to defend the advanced Pawn was very natural; but we believe something more demonstrative might have been attempted with advantage. For example, Kt to Q Kt 6th, when the game would, no doubt, have been continued as follows—  
22. Q Kt to his 6th K Kt takes P  
23. Q Kt takes B K Kt takes Kt  
(This is best for him. If he take with the Rook, Black answers with Q to her 3rd, and will have a decisive superiority after a few moves.)  
24. R takes Q P.  
And we prefer Black's game. Note, that at his 22nd move in this variant, Black may play Q to her 3rd before taking the Bishop, and still maintain an advantage in position.  
(h) He might evidently have won the two minor pieces for his Rook, but Black's Q R Pawn would probably have cost him a piece afterwards.  
(i) The termination is interesting and very well played, especially by M. de Riviere.

THE FLORENTINE MS. OF GRECO.

We have no wish whatever to anticipate the researches of Sir Frederic Madden and Mr. Staunton among the occult treasures of our early European Chess literature. When treating of the writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, we may be sure of receiving at their hands a complete history and minute description of the beautiful Greco MS. so lately found at Florence. There is one point, however, connected with this MS. which, as it excites a good deal of conjecture at the present moment among our Archeological Chess amateurs, both here and abroad, we may be pardoned, perhaps, for clearing up at once. The Florentine MS. contains a dedication\* (the first few lines of

\* The following is a translation of this curious performance, which shows that A. Greco was not above what Dr. Johnson terms "the servility of hyperbolic adulation."—

"TO HIS MOST SERENE HIGHNESS OF LORRAINE.  
"My Most Serene Lord,  
The true and glorious fame of your Highness' heroic virtues has reached even to my ears.—One in an innumerable multitude who behold and admire the sun of virtue—and remove from me the doubt which I have had until now as to whom I should dedicate and present this my production; which—not on my account, but for the quality of the subject of which it treats—is not altogether contemptible; and ought, therefore, only to be dedicated to a Sovereign Prince like your Highness. It is a treatise (a) on the most noble game of Chess, formerly the invention of a Prince and valiant soldier, who, enamoured of virtue, to pass his leisure profitably, discovered, I will not say the game, but this trial of intellect, which afterwards, although its sole end is to recreate our minds, was called a game. Your Highness will recognise in this book, under the metaphor of the said game, the most illustrious and distinguished virtues, which cause it to be regarded by all the world, and will discern in me also an infinite desire to manifest to your Highness the ancient devotion which I, in common with all our province, retain for your illustrious house, as to our ancient Lord and Governor. To your Highness, therefore—a true temple of virtue—the sole mirror of military glory, and the glorious offspring of the ancient possessors of Calabria—I dedicate and consecrate this my volume, in order that you being very learned in so fine a game may be its perpetual encourager and defender against any who may dare to blame as laudable a thing—so much the more rare, as it appears to me only to be eminently found among persons of your distinguished quality. Wishing your Highness every happiness, I reverently kiss your robe.  
D. V. A. S.  
Humble and devoted servant,  
GIOCHINO GRECO CALABRESE."

(a) The whole of the beginning, thus far, is missing in the Florentine MS., and we translate from the old French of the Dresden copy. The remainder, however, is rendered from the Italian of the former.

which are wanting), and a copy of verses addressed "A SUA ALTEZZA SERENISSIMA." From some expressions in the dedication, and the following verse in the poetic address—

Gran Signor, che in Loreno invito regni  
E di te fai tremar gli ultimi Imperi—

We gather that this "Altezza Serenissima" was a Prince of the house of Lorraine, but of his name, strange to say, there is no mention. Our first impression was that the name must have been lost with the missing lines of the dedication, and that another MS. of Greco, in the Library at Dresden, supposed by some, to be anterior, would furnish it. This is not the case; we have been at the pains to procure a transcript of the Dresden work, and, although it enables us to fill up the lacuna in the Italian one, and by turning out to be nothing more than a verbatim translation of the latter into old French, adds inestimably to the value of the Florentine MS., it throws no light upon the question of the Padrone's name. Bearing in mind, however, the date and place of Greco's dedicatory epistle, a reference to the history of the House of Lorraine shows clearly that the Prince in question was no other than Henry the Good, Duke of Lorraine. Henry was the eldest son of Charles II. of Lorraine and Claude of France, and was born at Nancy, the 3rd of November, 1553. Upon the death of his father, in 1608, he ascended the throne. He made a solemn entry into Nancy 1610, and died in 1624. His connection with Calabria, to which Greco alludes, was in this wise:—After the marriage of Violante, the daughter of Renato, the last Duke of Anjou, with Ferry of Lorraine, Count of Vaudemont, the Dukes of Lorraine, considering themselves successors to all the rights of the House of Anjou, even to the kingdom of Naples, quartered the arms of Sicily with their own, and, amidst other titles, assumed that of Dukes of Calabria. (See Balecourt, "Traité Historique et Critique sur l'Origine et la Généalogie de la Maison de Lorraine.")

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE *Enterprise* discovery ship, Captain Richard Collinson, C.B., has been taken into the lesser basin, Sheerness, to be stripped and paid off. Nothing official has been communicated to her officers under arrest, who are now prisoners at large, as to whether any court-martial will be held to investigate the charges brought against them.

LORD ADOLPHUS VANE TEMPEST, M.P. for North Durham, who is with his regiment of Guards in the Crimea, having received a hut from his mother, the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry, immediately on its erection fitted up a large and roomy tent adjoining it, which he furnished with a library of standard works, several periodicals, and three daily papers, and, having a good stock of stationery, he opened it for the use of the men of his company for reading, and writing letters home.

The screw-transport *Simla* arrived at Spithead from the Crimea on Sunday. She had on board 250 Russian prisoners, 12 officers, 150 English invalids, a guard of 47 men, and 18 other military passengers. She left Constantinople on the 27th of April, and Malta on the 2nd May.

THE *Odin*, paddle-wheel steam frigate, and *Rosamond*, paddle-wheel steam sloop, left Sheerness on Saturday last, at 4 a.m., with five of the sea mortar vessels, for the Black Sea. The marine artillery officers and gunners for service in the sea mortar vessels proceeded out in the *Odin* and *Rosamond*.

FOREIGN ORDERS AND MEDALS.—The *Gazette* of Friday week contains new regulations respecting foreign orders and medals, in substitution of the regulations now in force. No subject is to accept or wear a foreign order without the permission of her Majesty, under sign manual, and this will not be given unless the order shall have been conferred for active and distinguished service before the enemy, or unless the subject shall have been employed in the service of the foreign Sovereign conferring the order.

It is reported at Portsmouth that Vice-Admiral of the Red Sir George Seymour, K.C.B., G.C.H., will succeed Sir Thomas Cochrane as Commander-in-Chief at that port at the expiration of the term of commission of the latter officer.

THE Duke of Cambridge, accompanied by Lord Adolphus Fitz-Clarence, paid a visit to Woolwich Dockyard on Monday afternoon. They went on board the *Thunder* floating-battery, and afterwards to the mortar-boats.

THE six mortar-vessels that arrived at Spithead on Sunday night, from Sheerness, en route to the Black Sea, are ordered into harbour, and they have discharged their shot and shell for this purpose. In their passage round they were found to labour very much in a rough sea, and it is now intended to unship their mortars, and send them to the Black Sea by other means—probably on board the *Odin* paddle-frigate and *Rosamond* paddle-sloop, which are to accompany the mortar-vessels to Sebastopol. Some alteration in the trim of the vessels is also talked of.

In addition to the three regiments of Household Cavalry, there are now only nine heavy and light regiments quartered in the United Kingdom, five of which are under orders for foreign service. The regiments at home are as follows, viz.:—Heavy Cavalry: 1st or King's Dragoon Guards, at Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh, under orders for foreign service; 2nd or the Queen's Dragoon Guards, at Dundalk, under orders for foreign service; 3rd Dragoon Guards, at Dublin; 6th ditto Carabiniers, at Hounslow, under orders for foreign service; 7th Dragoon Guards, at Dublin. Light Cavalry: 3rd Light Dragoons, at Manchester; 7th Hussars, at York, under orders for foreign service; 15th ditto, at Exeter, ditto; and 16th Lancers, at Cahir. Twelve regiments are in the Crimea and two in India, making the total of 23 regiments of Cavalry.

In order to meet the garrison wants of the naval station at Pembroke Dock, the Government have determined upon the erection of new barracks at Pater, and the Board of Ordnance have taken the preliminary steps for their construction. The building is to be capable of holding 1000 men, and the site has been selected on the rising ground in the vicinity of Hobbs Point. The barracks are to be fortified, and they will prove another adjunct to the defence of the dockyard.

It is intended to concentrate the Foreign Legion enlisted in British America at Shorncliffe, where also a large number of Swiss volunteers will be encamped. The Poles and Germans will be quartered and disciplined at Heligoland.

SINCE the enlistment bounty was raised to £8 per man, in November last, the recruiting service has gone on very briskly in Scotland, and especially in Glasgow (the head-quarters of the west country), which has of late supplied a large body of fine young men to her Majesty's service. The enlistments in Glasgow alone, for the East India Company's service, during the last four months, have been 212—viz., in January, 64; February, 71; March, 33; and April, 64. It appears from the returns that Scotland is recruiting at the rate of more than 600 per annum, and that if recruiting should go on at the same ratio over England, Ireland, and Scotland generally, a total of upwards of 6000 men would this year be added to her Majesty's forces.

ACCORDING to present arrangements, about 9000 troops will occupy the ground at the opening of the Camp at Aldershot; and it is stated that her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Hardinge, and the Earl of Cardigan will be present on the occasion. It is understood that the following regiments of cavalry, infantry, and militia will be the first troops to occupy the ground; viz., 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, from Hy-de-park barracks; 6th Dragoon Guards, Carabiniers, from Hounslow (this regiment will be relieved by the 7th Hussars, from York, and will remain in Camp until ready to embark for the seat of war); detachments from the cavalry depôts at Maidstone, and Brighton, consisting of men belonging to the 9th Lancers, 10th Hussars, 12th Lancers, 13th Light Dragoons, 14th ditto, and 17th Lancers. The infantry will consist of detachments of the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Grenadier Guards, 2nd battalion of the Coldstream Guards, and 2nd battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards; 51st (King's) Light Infantry, from Manchester; 50th Foot, from Portsmouth; two companies of the 91th ditto, from Windsor; the newly-raised 3rd battalion of the Rifle Brigade, from Portsmouth; and detachments from the provisional battalions and depot companies at Parkhurst, Winchester, and Chatham. Militia Regiments:—Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex Rifles, West Kent, 1st or East Middlesex, 2nd ditto Westminster, and 5th ditto Eithorne Regiment, Tower Hamlets King's Own Light Infantry, and Tower Hamlets Queen's Own Light Infantry, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Regiments of Surrey Militia. These will give in round number, 1100 cavalry, 2500 Guards and infantry of the line, and about 4500 militia; which, added to 500 artillery and 150 Sappers and Miners, will constitute a force exceeding 9000 men. These will be relieved occasionally, until the whole force quartered in England has received a month's instruction in field evolutions.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—On the 3rd inst. fourteen English officers landed on Heligoland; among them was an officer of the Commissariat and a Paymaster. The natives have concluded, from the very complete outfit of these gentlemen (pianofortes being in some cases included for the benefit of those who are accompanied by their families) that their stay will be somewhat lengthy. All available premises were inspected the day after their arrival, and put into requisition for the accommodation of some coming troops, even to the place hitherto destined to protecting the bathing machines from the rigour of the elements. The amount of force expected is guessed to be between 5000 and 6000 men; for this number of additional mouths large supplies of provisions are announced as on their way. As there was a French officer in company of our countrymen, the notion has obtained birth that a joint stock allied depot is to be formed on that island. Although there is nothing in the above statement to favour the idea of Heligoland being selected as a station for the foreign legion, other news from the south of Germany mentions that recruiting for the English service is going on there *sub rosa*, but more successfully than was at first expected, under the auspices of a *ci-devant* Schleswig-Holstein officer. It appears that the Government allows £975 per hundred head of recruits delivered safe and sound at Heligoland, including keep and travelling expenses. The bounty paid to the individuals by the contractors is stated to be £6 each.—Letter from Berlin, May 7.



A MONOGRAPH OF THE TOUCANS, OR RAMPHASTIDÆ.

BY JOHN GOULD, ESQ., F.R.S.

MANY and splendid are the works on ornithology which Mr. Gould has produced, and most favourable has been their reception. Among these works his "Monograph of the Toucans" holds a conspicuous place, both as regards its intrinsic merits, as a contribution to science, and the beauty of the plates, which every eye can appreciate. It is upon this work that we design to offer our observations. At the same time, we cannot in justice refrain from a brief notice of the labours of this eminent naturalist, as evidenced by his various publications; and when we consider that these have been undertaken at his sole personal risk, without other encouragement than that of the more opulent patrons of science, we shall appreciate the moral courage displayed in encountering the heavy pecuniary responsibility necessarily involved in their production. Well is it that these works, costly as they cannot but be, bear within themselves the power to command success,—displaying as they do extensive knowledge, combined with anxious care and attention. Nothing, in fact, can exceed the spirit, fidelity, and beauty of the plates. True to the life, they afford a study to the artist, and constitute for the naturalist a pictorial museum of ornithology.

Passing by Mr. Gould's communications to the proceedings and transactions of the Zoological Society, both numerous and important, we come first to his "Century of Birds from the Himalayan Mountains," which appeared in the year 1832. Encouraged by the success of this first attempt, Mr. Gould commenced a more formidable undertaking, and in due time "The Birds of Europe" was completed. Then followed various Monographs—namely, of the Toucans, of the Trogons, and of the Partridges of America (*Odontophorine*), the intrinsic value of which the naturalist will at once appreciate, while to all persons the beauty of the illustrations will be patent. We now come to the year 1838. Hitherto, our knowledge of the ornithology of Australia was limited and uncertain; not, indeed, that the subject had been altogether neglected; but the materials were few, the collection of Australian birds in the museum of the Linnean Society being the most important then extant. An unexplored field invited, but it was not to be rashly entered. Actuated by that zeal which urges an energetic spirit to further achievements, Mr. Gould determined to visit Australia, penetrate as far as desirable into the remotest settlements, and collect and study the objects of nature in their native wilds. After an absence of about two years, he returned to England and commenced his labours upon the "Birds of Australia," in conjunction with a work on the "Quadrupeds" of the same country. Of these splendid publications we shall at present only say that they are, in every point, worthy of the author of the "Birds of Europe."

And here, Mr. Gould, might have "rested on his oars," and enjoyed *otium cum dignitate*; but new spheres of labour opened before him; and at one and the same time he undertook the following works:—namely, the "Birds of Asia," "A Monograph of the Humming Birds" (or *Trochilidae*), and a new "Monograph of the Toucans" (or *Ramphastidae*.) The two former of these works are now in course of publication. The latter is completed; and it is to this that, on the present occasion, we especially direct our attention.

To persons not conversant with the science of Natural History, a "Monograph"—that is, a detailed description of every species of a given group or family—may appear a task of no very great difficulty; but, in truth, the very contrary is the fact. In the first place every known species must be verified; and this can only be done by careful and repeated comparison; for which purpose, as original specimens are scattered among different museums, both British and Continental, express visits to these treasures respectively have to be made—and that not once, but many times—in order to clear away doubts, disentangle a maze of confusion, and rectify errors. Then, as, from time to time, new, or apparently new, species are brought to light, fresh researches must be made, lest, in some neglected work, an obscure description may have been overlooked, or a duplicate of the species in question be lying perdue in some little-known collection. After all this, follow the scientific results, namely, the rearrangement of the component parts of the group, in conformity with the newly acquired data, and the increase of information. No group of birds more urgently demanded this rigorous investigation than the Toucans; for, although Mr. Gould had previously published a Monograph, which included many new species, he could not but perceive that it was only the embryo of a more enlarged and complete undertaking. But Mr. Gould may here speak for himself. "In order (he says) to render this work as perfect as possible, I have obtained access to all the collections of this country, and have also visited and examined the principal museums of the Continent,—in several of which I found some species not contained in the others. Thus in Vienna I first saw the many-banded Araçari (*Pteroglossus pluricinctus*); in Munich, Reinwardt's Toucanet (*Selenidera Reinwardti*), Langsdorff's Toucanet (*S. Langsdorffi*), Wagler's Groove-bill (*Aulacorampus Wagleri*); in Paris, the Yellow-billed Araçari (*Pteroglossus flavirostris*); while Berlin and Leyden both contained other species not previously known to me." "Just as my first Monograph was brought to a close, that celebrated traveller and naturalist, the late Mr. John Natterer, of Vienna, returned to Europe, bringing with him females of the species of which I found only males at Munich, together with several other new ones, acquired during a sojourn of eighteen years in the Brazils. Unfortunately he did not arrive in London until the last sheets of that Monograph had gone to press; consequently, I was unable to include therein figures of these new species, as well as the many valuable notes, which, in the kindest manner, he placed at my disposal." Mr. Gould, therefore, deemed a new Monograph imperative; and some idea of his industry may be conceived from the fact that he has described and figured more than fifty species; whereas only six (and those ill-determined) were all with which Linnaeus was acquainted. It was, in fact, only a few years previously to the time of the great Swedish naturalist that actual specimens of the Toucan had been received in Europe. The beaks, however, of these birds, regarded as curiosities, had occasionally found their way to our shores, probably brought over by sailors from Brazil or Surinam, and had occasioned some curious conjectures. The earliest

record respecting the existence of a species of this remarkable group, now so well known by the common appellation of Toucans, occurs in the 28th chapter of Belon's third book, published in 1555. He there figures the beak of the Toco Toucan, and assigns the bird to the web-footed order, evidently regarding it as a sort of duck. He comments on its size, its transparency, lightness, and beauty; but informs us that he has never seen the bird itself. He suspects, however, that it is one of the *Aves palmipedes*, and therefore places it among birds "*vivants le long des rivières*."—"De la Nature d'Oyseaux, etc." Elsewhere ("Portraits d'Oyseaux") the same beak is figured as belonging to an "*aquatic bird brought from the New World*." Among the curiosities of Tradescant's collection the bill of a Toucan was preserved as an object of value, and was described in the "Museum Tradescantum," published in 1656, under the division "Heads and Beaks," as that of the Araçari of Brazil—four inches long, almost two thick, and in

shape resembling a Turkish scimitar. Whether Tradescant had ever seen the bird itself does not appear: it is, however, probable, from his terming it the Araçari of Brazil, that he was not altogether unacquainted with it.

The first figure of an entire bird, but so rude that it is impossible to refer it to any definite species, appeared in the "Ornithologia" of Willoughby, under the title of "*Pica Braziliensis*, the Toucan of Margrave, the *Xochitenocatl* of the Mexicans." In this figure ("Ornithol. Libr.," 1676, published by Ray, from "Willoughby's Posthumous Papers") the feet are incorrectly drawn, evidently by a mistake of the artist; for we well know that Willoughby was acquainted with their real conformation, since he not only expressly notices them, but refers to Thevetus, Faber Oviado, John De Laet, and other authorities.

Subsequently a correct, but very ill-drawn figure of some species of Toucan, probably the Red-billed, was published in Petiver's "*Gazophy-*



THE TOCO TOUCAN (*RAMPHASTOS TOCO*).



THE MANY-BANDED ARAÇARI (*PTEROGLOSSUS PLURICINCTUS*).



THE CURL-CRESTED ARAÇARI (*BUCCONASIUS ULOCOMUS*).



laci *Natura*," under the title of *Toucan Surinamensis* (Tab. xlv.) In this figure the toes are rightly arranged.

To these meagre materials but little appears to have been added until the appearance of the "*Systema Naturæ*" of the celebrated Linnaeus, in the twelfth edition of which he enumerates eight species; but of these two have nothing to do with the present family; so that six species were all that were really known to him. Gmelin, in his edition of the "*Systema Naturæ*," introduces seven other species; but of these five cannot be identified; one is referable to the *Ramphastos Tucanus* of Linnaeus, and hence one alone was the true extent of the addition made by him to the previous list.

Illiger appears to have added another species. Dr. Shaw described a Linnæan species under another name, and Vieillot merely Latinized the French names given by Le Vaillant to three of the species figured in his "*Oiseaux de Paradis*." Mr. Swainson made us acquainted with three additional species. Dr. Lichtenstein described two others. Dr. Latham does not appear to have added a single species to the group, for his "*Blue-eared Toucan*" is probably a species previously described.

Wagler, in his "*Sytema Avium*," 1827, added four species; and in Oken's "*Isis*," added a fifth. His other species, which he supposed to be new, are either described from faded specimens or from specimens manufactured by the bird-mounter—a not unfrequent practice. To these a few species have been more recently added, by naturalists of the present day, but their descriptions are scattered through various publications.

From what we have said, the value of Mr. Gould's labour may be in some degree appreciated.

The Toucans (a word derived from their Brazilian name, *Tuca, Tucá, Tucana*, or *Tucataca*) were formed by Linnaeus into a single genus, to which he applied the title of *Ramphastos*, in allusion to the great volume of the beak (*ραμφος*—*Ramphos*). They now constitute a family (*Ramphastidae*) comprehending several sections or genera, each having its distinguishing characters. All, however, have certain peculiarities in common, which at once distinguish them from every other group. In some respects, indeed, they resemble the Hornbills—for example, in the development of the beak, and its growth from youth to mature age; in scantiness of plumage, and impatience of cold; as well as in general habits and actions; and even in the position assumed when roosting, both sitting with the tail turned over the back. Hence, the Toucans may be said to represent in America the Hornbills in India and Africa. They differ, however, in the structure of the feet, the toes of the latter having the normal situation. Large as is the beak of the Toucans compared with the size of the body, it is in reality very light. Its outer sheathing is somewhat elastic, very thin, smooth, and semi-transparent; and the interior consists of a maze of delicate cells, throughout which the ramifications of the olfactory nerves are multitudinously distributed. The nostrils are basal, the edges of each mandible are serrated, and the colouring of the whole beak is bright, rich, and often relieved by contrasted markings. But these tints begin to fade after death, and become ultimately dissipated. In young birds the bill is much smaller than in adults, but little or no difference is manifested in the colours of the plumage. The eyes are surrounded by a considerable space of naked skin, often very richly tinted. The tongue is very long, slender, horizontally flattened, pointed, and, except at its base, horny; it is fringed or feathered along each side; the feet are strong and zygodactyle; that is, two toes are placed before and two behind, with a broad palm or sole at their junction. This mode of structure well adapts them for grasping firmly, but not for climbing, after the manner of the zygodactyle woodpeckers. The wings are short, concave, and comparatively feeble. The tail is variable, equal and squared, or graduated; it is remarkable for the facility with which it can be retroverted or turned up, so as to lie upon the back. This peculiarity results from a modification of structure in the caudal vertebrae, which enables the tail to turn with a jerk by the action of certain muscles, as if it were fixed on a hinge put into action by means of a spring. When the retroversion is accomplished, the muscles which caused it become passive, and offer no resistance to their antagonists, which restore the tail to its ordinary direction.

It need scarcely be said that the Toucans possess but indifferent powers of flight; at the same time there is a certain buoyancy in their actions, which might scarcely be expected from them, encumbered as they seem to be with so large a beak. They fly lightly, and hop and flit from branch to branch with graceful ease and address, so much so as to have suggested for one species the appellation of Ariel.

The Toucans are natives of the intertropical latitudes of America, and are strictly arboreal in their habits. They tenant the vast forests, are mostly seen in small companies, and utter from time to time harsh, clattering, or discordant cries. The localities they affect are various. "Some (says Mr. Gould) frequent the humid woods of the temperate regions, while others resort to comparatively colder districts, and dwell at an elevation of from six to ten thousand feet. Those inhabiting the lofty regions are generically different from those residing in the low lands, and are clothed in a more thick and sombre-coloured plumage. All the members of the genus *Andigena* (Hill Toucans) are thus distinguished as well as by their bills being strong, heavy, and hard, when compared with those of the true Toucans and Araçaris, all of which have their bills of a more delicate structure, and in several species so thin and elastic on the sides as to be compressible between the fingers." Their food in a state of nature consists of fruits, eggs, and nestling birds; to which, in domestication, are added small birds, mice, caterpillars, and raw flesh. They incubate in the hollows of gigantic trees, and the eggs are said by Azara to be two in number.

Faber was told by Fryer, Alaysa, and other Spaniards who had lived long in America, and also by the Indians, that the Toucan even hews out holes in trees, in which to nidify; and Oviedo—who remarks that no bird protects herself from the troublesome monkeys with better success—adds, that it is from this habit of chipping the trees that the bird is called by the Spaniards *Carpintero*, and by the Brazilians *Tucataca*, in imitation, apparently, of the sound it thus makes. We cannot help suspecting some error or confusion in this statement, which is certainly true



THE GREY-BREASTED HILL-TOUCAN (*ANDIGENA HYPO-GLAUCUS*).

as respects the woodpecker; but cannot, we think, apply even to the hardest-billed species of Toucan or Araçari.

"Humboldt states that the Toucan loves to fish on the banks of rivers; and it was doubtless some report of this kind that induced Linnaeus to give the name of *Piscivorus* to a species of this family; but I apprehend that in this particular both these celebrated men have been misinformed, for I have every reason to believe that, in a state of nature, fruit is the principal food—the larger species feeding upon bananas and other succulent kinds, while the Araçaris and Toucanets mainly subsist upon the smaller fruits and berries."—GOULD.

Prince Maximilian de Wied, who communicated to Mr. Gould many details relative to the species observed by him in Brazil, states that he found only the remains of fruits in their stomach, and adds that they

make sad havoc in plantations of fruit trees. He was informed, however, that they steal and eat birds, but never himself saw them in the act. They abound in the vast forests, and are killed in great numbers during the cooler season of the year for the purposes of the table.

"In their manners the *Ramphastidae* (he says) offer some resemblance to the *Corvidæ* (crow tribe), and especially to the magpies: like them, they are very troublesome to the birds of prey—particularly to the owls, which they surround and annoy by making a great noise, all the while jerking their tails upwards and downwards. The flight of these birds is easy and graceful, and they sweep with facility over the loftiest trees of their native forests." Their feathers, especially their yellow breasts, are used by the Indians for personal decoration.

Azara states that they attack even the solid nests of the white ants



GOULD'S TOUCANET (*SELENIDERA GOULDI*).



THE GROOVE-BILLED ARAÇARI (*AULACORAMPHUS SULCATUS*).



when the clay of which these structures are formed becomes moistened with the rain; in this condition they break them up with their beaks, so as to obtain the young ants and the eggs; in fact, he says that, during the breeding season, the Toucan feeds upon nothing else; during the rest of the year he subsists upon fruits, insects, and the buds of trees. Azara talks about the impossibility of their digesting the feathers and bones of other birds—forgetting that hawks strip the feathers from their prey, and cast up the bones and indigestible particles.

Edwards, in his voyage up the Amazon, observes that when a party of Toucans alights on a tree, one usually acts the part of a sentinel, uttering the loud cry of Tucano, whence they derive their name; the others disperse over the branches in search of fruit. While feeding they keep up a hoarse chattering, and at intervals unite with the noisy sentry, and scream a concert that may be heard a mile. Having appeased their appetites they seek the depths of a forest, and there quietly doze away the noon. Often in the very early morning a few of them may be seen sitting quietly upon the branches of some dead tree, apparently awaiting the coming sunlight before starting for their feeding-trees. The nests (he adds) of the Toucans are represented in works of natural history as being constructed in the hollow of trees. It may be so in many cases, and with some species, but the only one which we ever saw, and which was of the Toco-Toucan, was in the fork of a large tree overhanging the water upon the Amazon.

The mode in which the Toucans roost is not a little curious. The perch being taken, they pull out their plumage, retrovert the tail over the back, draw the head between the shoulders, close the eyes, and remain in a state between sleeping and waking for a considerable period, sometimes nearly for two hours. If roused while in this condition, they open their eyes, move a little, and soon relapse again. To this stage of somnolency succeeds that of true sleep; the bill now begins to turn gradually over the right shoulder, and becomes at last buried completely within the plumage of the back; at the same time the pinions of the wings droop, and with the coverts of the thighs entirely conceal the feet. The bird now presents the appearance of an oval ball of pulled-up feathers, and is well protected against the cold.

With respect to the omnivorous appetite of at least some species of Toucan, we have abundance of evidence. They were seen by Mr. Gould often engaged in quarrels with the monkeys, a nest of eggs being, it is presumed, the object of the contention. Their carnivorous propensity has been strikingly displayed by all the specimens which have been kept alive in England. It was noticed by Mr. Vigors that at the approach of any small bird the Toucan becomes highly excited, raises itself up, erects its feathers, and utters a hollow clattering sound, while the irides of the eyes expand, as it intently regards the prey on which it seems ready to dart with impetuosity. On one occasion Mr. Broderip tried a Toucan with a live goldfinch. The moment the latter was introduced into the cage, the Toucan seized it with the beak, and the poor little victim had only time to utter a short weak cry, for within a second it was dead, killed by the powerful compression of the strenuous mandibles. The Toucan now placed the dead bird firmly between its foot and the perch, stripped off the feathers with its bill, and then broke the bones of the wings and legs, by strongly wrenching them, the bird being still secured by the Toucan's foot. He then continued to work with great dexterity till he had reduced the goldfinch to a shapeless mass. "Ever and anon he would take his prey from the perch in his bill, making at the same time a peculiar clattering noise, at which times I observed that his bill and wings were affected with a vibratory or shivering motion, though the latter were not expanded. He would then return the bird to the perch with his bill, and set his foot upon it. He first ate the viscera, and continued pulling off and swallowing piece after piece, till the head, neck, and part of the back and breast-bone, with their soft parts, were alone left. These, after a little more wrenching, while they were held on the perch, and mastication while they were held in the bill, he at last swallowed, not even leaving the legs or the beak of his prey." The latter part of the work, though it gave him the most trouble, evidently produced the keenest enjoyment. To each morsel he applied his tongue, as he masticated it, chattering and shivering with delight. "I have more than once (says Mr. Broderip) seen him return his food soon after he had taken it into his crop, and, after masticating the morsel for awhile in his bill, again swallow it; the whole operation, particularly by the return of the food to the bill, bearing a strong resemblance to the analogous action in ruminating animals."

Light and almost diaphanous as is the bill of the Toucan, its strength and the power of the muscles, which act upon the mandibles, are evident in the wrenching and masticatory processes thus detailed. When taking fruit the Toucan generally holds it for a short time at the extremity of his bill, applying to it, with apparent delight, the pointed tip of the slender tongue; the bird then throws it, by a sudden upward jerk, to the throat, where it is caught and instantly swallowed.

Cuvier (evidently on the authority of Azara) says of the Toucans that the structure of their beak obliges them to swallow their food without masticating it. This, as we have seen in the instance of the goldfinch, above alluded to, is not correct. The tongue, however, does not assist in deglutition.

The Toucans, previously ranged in only two groups—namely, Toucans proper, and Aracaris—are divided by Mr. Gould into six genera, distinguished by well-marked characters.

1. **RAMPHASTOS**.—The true Toucans have very large and gaily-coloured bills, and the general plumage black; tail square. Sexes alike in plumage. Species, fourteen.
2. **PTEROGLOSSUS**.—The Aracaris, with smaller beaks, a more elegant contour, a graduated tail; the upper plumage green, that of the under parts yellow and red, with bands. Sexes alike. Species, ten.
3. **DEAUFARNIA** (Banded Aracaris).—This is an Amazonian genus proposed by Prince C. L. Bonaparte. The females very closely assimilate to the males in colour, but differ in the lighter line of the throat. Species, six.
4. **SELENIDERA** (the Toucanets).—All the members of this group are of small size, when compared with the true Aracaris, have shorter and harder bills, and shorter and less graduated tails. They are, moreover, distinguished by a crescentic mark of yellow across the top of the back, by brilliant orange and yellow ear-coverts, and by a great difference in the colouring of the sexes. Species, six.
5. **ANDIGENA** (Hill Toucans).—A group inhabiting the elevated portions of the Andes. They are well proportioned birds; have larger and harder bills than the *Selenidera*, a thick but lax plumage, and are not banded on the under surface like the *Aracaris*. The sexes are alike in plumage. Species, five.
6. **AULACORAMPHUS** (Groove-bills).—These birds are distinguished by elegance of form, and a nearly uniform grass-green colouring of the plumage. The feathers composing the latter are long and loose; and in most species the bill is grooved along the sides. The sexes are alike in colour. Species, ten. Total, fifty-one.

Of the first genus, the True Toucans, we figure the Toco (*Ramphastos Toco*—Gmel.), remarkable for the splendour and size of the bill, which is of a fine orange-red, with a large black patch on each side near the tip. The naked skin round the eye is bright orange. The chest is white, with a tinge of sulphur below, and a slight scarlet margin. Upper tail-coverts, white; under tail-coverts, scarlet; the rest of the plumage, black. Several specimens of this beautiful bird have lived both in the menagerie of the late Earl of Derby and in the gardens of the Zoological Society. It is a native of Cayenne, Paraguay, &c. Prince Maximilian says:—"This species is never found near the coast, but is plentiful in the province of Minas Geraes, and Bahia. It is also abundant in the southern part of Brazil. Those observed in the vicinity of Bahia were very shy, the result of their having been repeatedly fired at by the inhabitants, in defence of their fruit-trees, as well for the purpose of procuring them for the table. Notwithstanding this, however, the desire to feed upon the oranges and guavas induces them to approach very near the town at the season when these fruits are ripening. Very pretty little powder-flasks are occasionally made of their large and finely-coloured bills."

Of the second group, the Aracaris, the species selected as an example is the Many-banded Aracari (*Pteroglossus plumicinctus*). This species was first described by Mr. Gould, from specimens obtained on the Upper Amazon and Rio Negro. It was observed alive in its natural wilds by Mr. Natterer, who observes:—"I have seen five or six together in a tree near Villa de Thomar, on the Rio Negro, and readily recognised them, with the assistance of a glass, by their conspicuous bands. That it is found as far north as the Rio Padauri and Castanlia Parana, on the Orinoco, I know from the circumstance of many skins being brought to me by the Macanai Indians." The upper surface of the body is generally green; the tail and throat black; the under surface yellow, dashed with scarlet, and crossed with two bold bands of black; bill black, with a broad yellow stripe along the sides of the upper mandible, and a narrow boundary line of the same around the basal margin of each; naked skin round the eye, blue.

Of the third group, the Banded Aracaris of the Amazon, we figure the Curl-crested Aracari (*Bennettianus uloomus*). This elegant species was not known in Europe previously to the year 1830. During the last five years, however (as Mr. Gould observes), several travellers have visited the upper tributaries of the Amazon, so that many specimens, as might naturally be expected, have been recently procured. According to Wallace it is extremely local, and was only seen by that traveller on the south side of the Amazon, above the Rio Madeira; although Professor Pappig is stated to have found it on the eastern dip of the Peruvian Andes. Mr. Wallace adds that it appeared in the districts he mentions in great numbers during the month of July, when certain fruits of a warm it feeds were abundant. It is said to be in its native country the *Macanai*, probably from its "curl crest." Bill, red along the upper ridge, then green, then black and white along the sides. Under mandible, white. Head covered by a jet black crest, the feathers of which represent the appearance of curled glossy metallic laminae; each feather being, in fact, so modified in its structure as to form a scaly, horny strip, of considerable thickness and elasticity. Naked skin round the eye, blue. Upper part of the back, red; lower part, green, followed by a scarlet band, to which succeed the green upper tail-coverts. Cheeks, straw-yellow, dotted with blackish. Under parts, yellow, dashed—especially along the sides—with scarlet.

From the fourth group, the Toucanets, we select as an example Gould's Toucanet (*Selenidera Gouldi*). This species was first figured by Mr.

Gould in the "Icones Avium," from the specimens procured by Mr. Natterer, on the Rio Madeira, Brazil; and who named the species in honour of Mr. Gould, in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society, April 11, 1837. Mr. Gould has since obtained many specimens from the banks of the Amazon. Still it is one of the rarest specimens of the genus, and is not very often to be found in ornithological collections. Of its habits we have no detailed account. In the male the head, the upper part of the back, and the chest, are black, the naked skin round the eye green; ear-coverts, parti-coloured—being anteriorly dark orange, and posteriorly straw-yellow, abruptly distinct; a pale yellow crescentic band edges the black across the back; sides orange; under tail-coverts scarlet; upper plumage below the yellow band dull green; tail tipped with brown. In the female, the head, neck, throat, and breast are reddish brown, and the ear-coverts reddish olive. In both the bill is green at the tip; the upper mandible is black, edged and bounded by straw-yellow; under mandible green at the tip, with a black mark, or bar, and then white.

The fifth group, the Hill Toucans, presents us with a fine example, in the Grey-breasted Hill Toucan (*Indigena Hyppoglaucus*—Gould). This species was first described by Mr. Gould, from specimens sent over from Poyayan. Like the rest of the genus, it is an inhabitant of the mountains, and is only to be found in the deepest wooded portions of the Andes, for which elevated and cold situation the full and downy texture of its plumage admirably adapts it, a feature also characteristic of the other species of this genus. The specific name refers to the beautiful silvery lustre which pervades the delicate grey spread over the breast and under surface. Bill above red, yellow at the base, where it is bounded by a black band. Tip of under mandible black. Back brown at the upper part, yellow at the lower. Under tail-coverts scarlet. Tail blackish olive, tipped with brown. Wings olive-green. Head sooty black; naked skin round the eyes yellow before, passing into green behind.

The sixth genus is that of the Groove-bills, characterised by the slenderness and hardness of the bill, and the green colouring of the plumage. As an example we select the Groove-billed Aracari (*Aulacorhamphus sulciatus*). In the peculiarly narrow and attenuated form of the bill, and the deep and decided grooves, along its sides, this species differs from all its congeners. "Its precise habitat (says Mr. Gould) is still unknown to me, but I believe it to frequent the country to the northward of the river Amazon, between Guiana and the Caracacas." It is a rare species, and is wanting in many of our European collections. The beak has the upper ridge red, the sides black. The under mandible is black, passing into red at its base. Two furrows run along the side of the upper mandible, and one along the side of the under. General colour, green—with a wash of blue below the eye; throat, white; plumage of both sexes alike.

We may add, in conclusion, that eight or nine specimens of Toucans and Aracaris have been living at different times in the gardens of the Zoological Society. In their manners they were gentle and confident, and exhibited no alarm at the close approach of a concourse of bystanders attracted by their novel appearance. With this familiarity they combined considerable playfulness of disposition, and amused themselves much in the same way as tame jacksaws or magpies in a large aviary. Hence we readily believe the statements of travellers, who assure us that they may be taught tricks and feats like parrots; and that, although utterly destitute of the power of imitating the human voice, they evince, like those birds, a considerable share of intelligence.

**THE GRENOBLE MIRACLE.**—Some time ago great noise was occasioned by a pretended miracle on the mountain of La Salette, near Grenoble, consisting of the appearance of the Virgin to a shepherd boy. Two priests of the diocese of Grenoble, M. Delion and M. Cartelier, published pamphlets, in which they laboured to prove that there had been no miracle at all, and that the person whom the boy had supposed was the Holy Virgin was a young female named Fenerliere. Mdlle. Fenerliere considered herself defamed by these publications, and a few days ago she brought an action before the Civil Tribunal of Grenoble against the two priests, and against M. Delion, their printer, to obtain 20,000 francs damages. The Tribunal, after making a searching examination into all the facts, and hearing lengthened readings, decided that what the defendants had said with respect to her part in the alleged miracle did not amount to defamation; that they had, besides, honestly believed it to be true, and that they had sufficient reasons for so believing. It therefore dismissed the action.

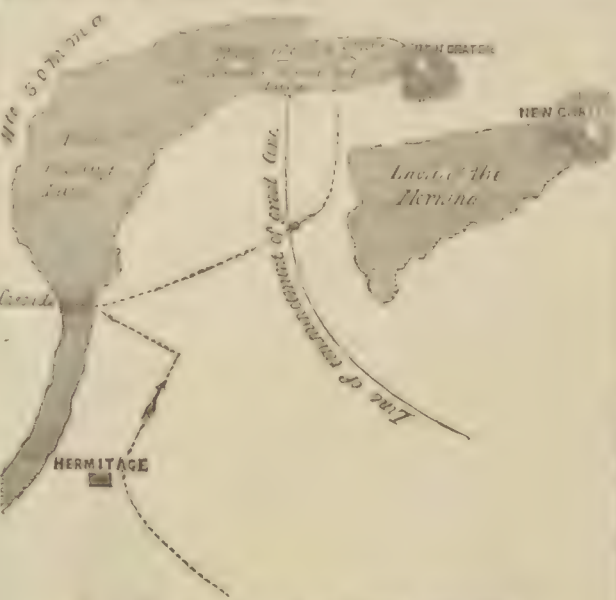
ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

(We have been favoured by two Correspondents with the following Letters, describing the new Eruption of Vesuvius.)

NAPLES, May 2nd, 1855.

The steamer in which I had taken a berth to Leghorn having delayed to start yesterday, I was detained unwillingly at Naples. The table d'hôte dinner at the Russie was not finished, when I observed a general commotion and rushing for hats and shawls, and people said one to another, "an eruption of Vesuvius!" In the streets carriages were already rolling off to the mountain, and crowds had assembled in those spots whence the eruption could be seen.

A slight line of fire down the side of the great cone, a bright spot lower down and just behind the Hermitage, and a great body of rose or orange-coloured smoke, filling up the space between Mount Vesuvius and the wall of the old crater (called Mont Somma), reflected a rose-coloured stream across the calm bay almost to Naples.



PLAN OF THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS.

After a three hours' ride I arrived at two o'clock at the Hermitage, which is, I believe, rather more than half-way up the mountain (whose height is 4000 feet)—and walked along the ridge towards the great cone. On my left the lava was streaming down at the rate of, I thought, about half a mile an hour, the parts exposed to the air having cooled and become black, but all being red-hot underneath, as could be seen through the great cracks in the black crust. At the top of the ravine down which the lava rolled, or rather pushed on, so slowly was a cascade of lava, about 150 paces, or so, high and nearly as many broad, which, falling over quickly, and so, being much exposed to the air, looked like a mass of red-hot falling coals. This cascade formed the bright spot seen from Naples. I turned aside, walking with difficulty over the field of old lava, and stood quite close to the fall: perhaps fifty other people were already there. The heat was not great.

At the top of the cascade was the vast plain of lava, I suppose, in extent, between Mount Somma and the great cone of Mount Vesuvius. More than half this plain was covered with moving lava, gradually extending its sides, full of cracks in the cooled crust, through which appeared the red-hot lava underneath. It looked like a great burning city, sending up as it did volumes of fire-coloured smoke.

When I arrived at the bottom of the cone (about a mile from the Hermitage), at the point where, a week before, I had ascended, I saw from a small new crater, about half way up the cone, issuing an enormous stream of lava, which rolled down the steep side of the cone, all down into the valley or space between Mount Somma and the cone. I could not see over a high ridge of cooled lava the width of the stream, but it was so great at the point *a* in the plan, that I thought there must be another crater on the south side of the cone.

The crater spouted up occasionally small red-hot stones, to the height of about thirty or forty feet.

Above the whole of the lava was an enormous cloud of smoke, slightly sulphurous, and tinged over half its surface with bright reflected rose-colour. The sky, the sea, and indeed the whole landscape, when the full-moon was obscured by clouds, was of a deep and strange blue.

While I looked at this grand sight, another small new crater near the top of the mountain, which had sent forth a large body of lava in the morning, began again to vomit, and sent down a crackling river of fire. There was no flame that I saw anywhere, nor did any ashes fall. The heat was not great, even close to the lava, which cools so quickly that we could walk upon it, even while it was red-hot underneath. The air was still, and I heard no noise but the crackling of the moving lava, and occasionally a rumbling, as of very distant thunder. The eruption had begun at half-past four in the morning, but the mountain had been covered all day with a body of smoke, which I took to be a cloud. The last eruption was in 1850, and this has been expected for some months. (G. C.)

NAPLES, May 5, 1855.

AFTER the lapse of now five years, Vesuvius has again burst forth with most destructive violence. It is an event which has been anxiously waited and hoped for during the last year, for the stillness of the mountain, and the occasional drying up of the wells, and the shocks of earthquake which have taken place more or less remote from Naples, have led people to desire an eruption as the less of two evils. What if the prediction should be verified that this is the Italian city to be destroyed this year, and that this vast mass of human souls who now live upon a mere crust, should sink into the abyss which is known to exist beneath! To many, then, it was a relief when the chief guide of the mountain announced that as he was ascending on the morning of the 1st May, at half-past four o'clock, he heard, as it were, a discharge of artillery, and saw fire and stones being thrown up from several new openings. The intelligence spread like wildfire through the city, and the evening was looked forward to with intense interest for a confirmation of the guide's report. As Ave Maria was tolled, thousands were pouring down towards the Mola, Santa Lucia, and other spots whence a good view could be obtained: as we turned round by the Swiss guard house, en route to the shipping, the whole heavens appeared to be on fire. Scarcely any portion of the mountain was visible, for as the wind was rather a Sirocco, the dense swelling clouds were "congregated about its summit and its sides, so as to conceal its outline, and render the scene as mysterious as it was grand. The flames which were thrown up, too, were only perceptible from their effects, being reflected from cloud to cloud, until the sky appeared to be one mass of flame. In the centre only was there any opening, and there might be seen a portion of that burning stream which was now pouring down on the devoted country beneath. Not content with the distant view, we resolved the next night on going up the mountain. It was one continued line of carriages, donkeys, horses, and pedestrians, which we joined, and with which we ascended to the Hermitage. Crowds were coming down, having already satisfied their curiosity, with their torches streaming wildly in the air; and, shouting or shrieking, or else singing in a chorus of a hundred voices some *canzoncello* in a minor key, added vastly to the moral picturesqueness of the scene. From the Hermitage a road leads over beds of volcanic deposit in the direction of the cone, to the foot of which is, perhaps, an hour's walk. Diverging, however, from this road, we traversed, on the left, what appeared now to be a mass of coke—the deposit of last night. It was still hot. We took up huge pieces of the lava, and the fire glowed beneath us. We threw in paper, or other combustible matter, and kept up a continual flame. At last we came to the edge of a cascade of fire, over which the burning stream precipitated itself into the abyss beneath. It is this point of view we have undertaken to represent, in preference to a more distant one; which, though it might have given a pleasing general effect, would have conveyed no adequate idea of the gorgeous spectacle on the mountain. Divided by an imaginary line only from the stream which was flowing down, we looked on the cataract I have endeavoured to describe. A plain of burning coke, some 200 feet wide, was moving on before our eyes, almost touching our feet; until, accumulating in large masses, over it thundered into the valley beneath. Down, down, we watched the red line in the distance, burning and destroying everything it met with. A whole plantation of chestnut-trees yielded to its power: they twisted, and I screamed, and groaned, like martyrs in an *auto da fe*, and then gave signals, by a brilliant flame, that their sufferings were over. Moving away from this point, we descended a little, by jumping from mass to mass, and crossing channels of fire, until we were in face of the cataract. The noise of the advancing stream was as that of an Alpine flood over a shingly bed—sh-sh-sh-sh: such was the continued murmur of the thousands of tons of burning coke which were ever moving on, and tumbling mass over mass. The outer crust here and there became cooled and blackened, and then detaching itself, the burst of heat and light was sufficient, for a moment, to blast and scorch us. Involuntarily we held up our hands as if to shield ourselves; but, unable any longer to resist it, were compelled to retire. The figures on the side of the cataract represent our position as we looked into the boiling gulf. Clouds of red smoke issued from it, reminding one of what Martin or Danby has done. Behind us, with a group of soldiers, are their Majesties and two of the Princesses in *portantini*. The Hereditary Prince is on foot; and a crowd of soldiers, policemen, and courtiers are around. After gazing on this wondrous spectacle for an hour or two, we lighted our cigars in the crevasses, and started to go up the cone. "'Tis dangerous," said some: "parties have just turned back." But we were bent on seeing it; and, taking a man who was selling pieces of copper which he had incrustured with lava for our guide, we returned to the main path. The torches indicate the road by which we ascended. As we began to mount the cone, before and behind us the view was startling. Crossing, as before, the deposit of yesterday, we placed ourselves close to the edge of one of the six mouths which are now opened on the side: one other has opened more in the rear, and is, therefore, invisible. The main crater was inactive, throwing out only smoke. The next below it threw out red-hot stones and fire. The others were pouring out tons of lava; and the one by which we stood threw out also stones, some of which fell amongst us. The surface around it was red as a heated copper boiler, and destructive indeed were the ingredients which were seething within. As material was thrown out, the noise was like the discharge of distant artillery, and so it continued without interval. Neither pen nor pencil can describe the scene which presented itself on looking back. Two streams of lava were flowing down the cone, their crisped undulations being strongly marked. Down they went, serpent-like, into the valley we had passed through, until, arriving at the cataract we have described, they were hurled over. The form of the whole length of the main stream was that of the letter S, and, until it reached the cataract, measured between one and two miles. The background was composed of red, rusty-looking clouds, which rose from the lava and gave a mysterious aspect to the scene. Above the mountain on the right we have placed the moon, which was eclipsed the first night after the eruption: she is looking down as cold as any Stoic on the ruin that is going on below. Torches were scattered about, and so vast was their number that the mountain appeared to be covered with glow-worms. A hundred remarkable points of view presented themselves, but we have selected that which, to our imagination, was the most striking. In short, we can think of nothing else: it dazzles our recollection, as it did our eyes, and were we to live a thousand years we could not forget that wondrous spectacle.

The Second View represents the mountain from an entirely different point. As the first is taken beyond the Hermitage, looking down on the cascade and up to the cone, this sketch is taken from the bottom of the Valley of Vetrana, in the midst of burning vineyards, and close to the villages of Pollena and Massa di Somma. The mountain, in the foreground, is so elevated that the cone is thrown back, and is perfectly invisible. This locality is on the north side of the mountain (and, as the lava has now descended into the plain, we resolved to go with the tens of thousands who were all tending in the same direction. The scene, as we approached nearer and nearer, was more remarkable than we can describe, the roads were full of carriages, jammed so closely together that it was impossible to move on. The wind blows and downways of every house we passed were crowded 1 as at a fair. Leaving our carriage at Pollena, a walk of a quarter of an hour brought us to the bed of the winter stream of Vetrana—and those who know it fully know what such a bed and such a stream are. Turning sharp off to the left we came on an embankment of lava of from one to two hundred feet in depth or thickness. As the mass accumulated from one moment to another behind it, gigantic fragments of the outer crust fell off, and showers of liquid lava came pouring down, rolling on to our very feet, and laying the foundation of a new embankment. Vineyards were burning right and left, and the axe of woodcutters, now past midnight, resounded in every direction, in the foolish hope of saving something from the rain. Soldiers and guards were mingled with the crowd to keep order, to preserve life, and to be in readiness to break down a bridge which might impede the lava, and thus diffuse it more widely. Leaving this spot, we ascended through grounds teeming with the abundant produce of an Italian soil, now trodden under foot, and walking on the edge of a precipice: then, when we looked down on a river, say, or on a fire, we were almost dumb with amazement at the sight of the lava which we saw only a few feet below us: most fair representation of the most marvellous spectacle that the eye can gaze upon. We looked down into the valley 150 feet beneath us, filled in the winter by water, now by boiling red-hot lava; the width of the stream being in many parts 200 feet. Supporting ourselves

(Continued on page 488.)



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ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS, MAY 2, 1855.

(Continued from page 486.)  
by one of the trees we looked over, and watched the flaming flood rolling down majestically towards the village we had left. Looking upwards, we beheld one continued sheet—a cascade of fire, flame, and smoke, at least 1000 feet in height. We speak in measured terms. It fell into the abyss beneath us and then flowed on as we have described. It is a continuation of No. 1. The difference being that this latter view was taken close to the head of

the cascade, whilst No. 2 is taken at some little distance, and from below. The dark mountain of Somma, on the left, at times glowed with the reflected light; whilst the right, on which stands the Hermitage, was generally concealed by the vast masses of cloud which the heavy wind swept over it. Right and left are infant currents of lava, destined, perhaps, to increase and commit great havoc. In the foreground are a portion of the multitudes who stood or sat about, gazing intently on the scene; and,

whenever there was a grand landslip of lava, shouting with admiration, and almost horror—"Giudizio di Dio!" "Castigo di Dio!" or any other phrase suggested by their highly-wrought feelings. We never can forget that night. At the last moment we have to report that a portion of Massa di Somma has been destroyed; the people are in full flight and there is no indication of the mountain ceasing its ravages.

HENRY WRETFORD.



ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS, MAY 4, 1855.





EXHIBITION OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, AT GORE-HOUSE, KENSINGTON GORE.

### THE HOTEL MUNSCH, VIENNA.

THE Hotel Munsch, at Vienna—the residence of Lord John Russell, during the celebrated Vienna Conference of March and April, 1855—is a specimen of the grand palatial style of hostelry of which we only find examples in the great capitals of the Continent. It stands in the Newmarket, close to the Imperial Palace and the theatres, in the centre of the city, and was formerly known as the Casino. The building is very spacious, built round a square which serves as a court-yard. The apartments are numerous—forming, in parts, extensive suites. The stairs of the principal passages are of stone: the walls are substantial, nearly six feet thick, and the ceilings of all the rooms are domed in brick, so that the whole is fireproof and almost bomb-proof. The Hotel in all its departments is extremely well regulated. There are two dining saloons—one on the principal floor, where the bill of fare is as *recherché* as at the most celebrated restaurants of Paris; the other on the basement, where all is excellent but more moderate in price. Lord John Russell and suite occupied the whole of the upper part of the building—about thirty-two rooms. In Mr. Munsch English travellers will find an accommodating, agreeable, and, we may add, a *reasonable* host.

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE first of the summer exhibitions of this society for the season was held on Wednesday, in the beautiful gardens attached to Gore-house, Ken-

sington, which had been kindly granted to them by her Majesty's Commissioners—it having been found that, of late years, the May meetings at Chiswick have not proved so attractive as they would otherwise have been, owing to the weather not being of that genial nature as to invite a visit to so great a distance from town.

Her Majesty, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the Princess Hohenlohe, and a numerous suite, visited the exhibition as early as half-past ten in the morning, and the distinguished party appeared much pleased with the whole of the arrangements and the floral and other beauties presented to their view—the fruits and flowers being arranged in two extensive marquees, supplied by Mr. Benjamin Edgington, of London-bridge.

During the afternoon the bands of the Coldstream Guards, the Grenadier Guards, and the 1st Life Guards, added much to the general enjoyment, by the excellence with which they performed numerous overtures, marches, and other favourite music.

In the floral department, the azaleas were peculiarly attractive, from their great variety of colour; whilst the roses were complete triumphs of horticultural skill. The geraniums were also magnificent, as were the stove and greenhouse plants. The orchids and the fruits were also highly attractive; and, indeed, we do not recollect to have seen better specimens at any former meeting.

Among the attractions of the exhibition was a new Rhododendron (*Rhododendron jasminiflorum*), exhibited by Mr. Veitch, of the Exotic Nursery, Chelsea. We have engraved this extremely beautiful plant. Its form is that of a low shrub, with thick evergreen foliage, and numerous panicles

of wax-like flowers of dazzling whiteness. The anthers are of an orange-scarlet, the reflection from which imparts a delicate blush tint to the face of the flowers. The form and texture of the blossom remind one of the favourite *Stephanotis*, or the jessamine—from the latter of which it derives its specific name. Altogether the plant has a most lovely effect; and it possesses the additional recommendation of a most agreeable fragrance, somewhat resembling that of the auricula. This new Rhododendron is a native of Mount Ophir, in the Straits of Malacca, where it was discovered by Mr. Veitch's indefatigable collector, Mr. Thomas Lobb, growing at an elevation of 5000 feet. Its culture is easy, and it thrives well in the greenhouse.

The following is a list of the prizes, with their value, as given in the various classes for different fruits and flowers:—

L.G. 1. First Large Gold Medal, £15; L.G. 2. Second Large Gold Medal, £12; G.K. 1. First Gold Knightian Medal, £13; G.K. 2. Second Gold Knightian Medal, £8; G.B. 1. First Class Gold Banksian Medal, £7; G.B. 2. Second Gold Banksian Medal, £5; S.G. Silver Gilt Medal, £4; L.S. Large Silver Medal, £3; S.K. Silver Knightian Medal, £2; S.B. Silver Banksian Medal, £1.

The medals granted for the fruits were as follow:—

Pine Apples: L. S., Mr. Robinson, gardener to Lord Boston, Providence, 7 lb. 4 oz.; S. B. Mr. Clements, gardener to Lord Boston, Barnet, 5 lb. 5 oz.; L. S., Mr. Price, gardener to W. Forman, Esq., Queen's, 3 lb. 5 oz.; S. K., Mr. Clements, Black Jamaica, 3 lb.; S. B., Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland, Moscow Queen, 2 lb. 3 oz. Peaches and Nectarines: S. G., Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland. Persian Melons: S. K., Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland; S. B., Mr. Robertson, gardener to Lady Emily Foley, Hybrid. White Grapes: L. S., Mr. Brady, gardener to Sir M. Peto; S. K., Mr. Clements; S. B. Mr. Ward, gardener to W. Stephens, Esq. Black Grapes: L. S., Mr. Clements, Black Hamburg; S. K., Mr. Slowe, gardener to W. E.



THE HOTEL MUNSCH, AT VIENNA.



JASMINE-FLOWER RHODODENDRON.



Baker, Esq.; S. K. Mr. Doda, gardener to Sir John Cathcart, Bart.; S. B. Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland; S. B. Mr. Munro, gardener to Mrs. Oddie; S. B. Mr. Bradley, gardener to Sir S. M. Peto.  
 Figs: Mr. Busby, gardener to J. S. Crawley, Esq., Brown Turkey.  
 Cherries: S. K. Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland; S. B. Mr. Ingram, gardener to her Majesty.  
 Strawberries in collection: L. S. Mr. M'Ewan, gardener to the Duke of Norfolk, Eleanor, British Queen, and Victoria.  
 Strawberries (single dishes):—S. K. Mr. Cox, gardener to J. Hodgson, Esq., Keen's seedling; S. B. Mr. Constantine, gardener to C. Mills, Esq., Prince of Wales.  
 Large Exotic Fruits: G. B. Mr. Iveson, gardener to the Duke of Northumberland, fruit of the Mangrove.  
 Miscellaneous: S. K. Mr. Fleming, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland, manlarine oranges in pots; S. B. Mr. Constantine, gardener to C. Mills, Esq., grapes in pots.  
 The most successful exhibitors of plants in the collections were the gardeners to Sir J. Cathcart, Sir Edmund Antrobus, Mr. A. Bassett, Mr. W. F. G. Farmer, and Mr. Coles Child; and amongst nurserymen, Messrs. Fraser, Fraser, Mr. Cutbush, and Messrs. Rolison.  
 Of Greenhouse Azaleas the chief competitors were the gardeners to Mr. W. F. G. Farmer, Mr. A. Bassett; Mrs. Webb, of Hoddesdon; Baron Goldsmid, and Mr. J. Philpott; and of mosses, Messrs. Lane, Messrs. Fraser, and Mr. Gaines.  
 Of Orchids: The gardeners to Mr. C. B. Warner, Mr. H. B. Ker, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Webb, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Robert Hanbury, Sir E. Antrobus, and Mr. J. S. Venn; and Messrs. Veltch and Messrs. Rolison.  
 For Heaths: Prizes were awarded to the gardeners of Mr. Bassett and Mr. Philpott; and to Messrs. Rolison, Messrs. Fraser, Messrs. Veltch, and Mr. Cutbush.  
 For Roses in Pots: To the gardeners of Mr. J. S. Crawley, Mr. A. Rowland, Lady Giles Fuller, and to Messrs. Lane and Messrs. Francis.  
 For Geraniums: To the gardeners of Mr. Windson, Mr. Buckmaster, Mr. J. Simpson, Mr. A. Bassett; and to Mr. Turner, of Slough; Messrs. Doda, Messrs. Fraser, and Mr. Gaines.  
 For Cinerarias: To the gardeners of Mr. Turner, Mr. Edward Beck, and Messrs. Dobson.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

### FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

Of course the great event of the day has been the opening of the Palais d'Industrie; an event which, but a few days previously, was not expected to occur before the end of May, or even the 1st of June. A raw, cold, wet morning, ushered in the solemnity; despite which from ten in the morning the crowds who had invitation or season tickets, began to assemble at the various entrances, and from that hour (at which the doors opened) till twelve, when they closed, the building kept gradually filling. Being favoured with an invitation-ticket, we were able, during the interval of nearly three hours that elapsed between our entrance and the arrival of the Imperial cortège, to examine at leisure the general effect of many of the details of the interior. At each end of the building, within the arch which forms the centre aisle, is a transparency—one representing France, seated on a throne, calling the nations round her; in the other, the principal figure represents Justice, with Art and Science, and various other allegorical figures of the several nations grouped at her feet and on either side. In front of the gallery which runs round the building are inscribed the names of the countries, with their different standards. As yet there is not a single department complete. Here and there certain stalls, if we may so call them, display their contents, wholly or partially arranged as they are to appear, standing amid a wilderness of yet unopened packing-cases. The arrangement of the Centre Aisle is further advanced than the galleries. At one o'clock the sound of cannon announced the departure of the Emperor and Empress from the Tuileries; in about a quarter of an hour they arrived, and were greeted at the entrance by cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive l'Impératrice!" Their Majesties were received by the Prince Napoleon and the Princess Mathilde, and proceeded to the dais of crimson and gold erected opposite the principal entrance, where they stood surrounded by the Court, the Ministers, the Senate, the Clergy, the *Représentants*, the Generals, &c., &c., while the Emperor pronounced his discourse. At its conclusion, the band (rather inefficient for the size of the building, which, at the entrance of the Imperial couple, had played "Partant pour la Syrie," performed the overture to the "Muette de Portici," while the Emperor and Empress, followed by the Prince Napoleon and Princess Mathilde, and attended by the whole cortège, made the entire tour of the building, and then departed. The Emperor and Prince Napoleon were in uniform; the Empress, and all the ladies who attended her, in full evening attire. Her Imperial Majesty wore a dress of *vert Isly*, with lace flounces up to the waist, and a *tablier* of white silk or satin, with *bouillons* of white tulle. A diamond tiara encircled her head. She bowed right and left during the whole of the circuit. The Emperor, as he walked round, took a survey of the galleries, but seemed to pay little attention to the salutations of the assembly. After the departure of the Court, the spectators, in the galleries, who had been compelled to keep their places during the preceding time, became at liberty to go over the building, and to visit the Palais des Beaux Arts, opened at the same time.

Various fêtes are in contemplation, principally in the official world, for the season of the Exhibition. It is intended, on the arrival of the Queen, to give three of unusual magnificence—at St. Cloud, the English Embassy, and the Hôtel de Ville.

It is not yet certain whether or not the Italian Opera will open during the summer; in the meanwhile it is decided that the Odéon will not close, as it usually does. Mlle. Georges is to give three representations of her great parts in "Rodogune," "Sémiramis," "Une Fête de Néron," and some others. A great theatrical measure, that of the creation of Imperial theatres in the provinces, especially at Strasbourg, Lyons, Rouen, Toulouse, and perhaps Bordeaux, is decided upon. Tragedy and high comedy are to be performed in them on certain days in the week, and it is expected that the high functionaries in these towns will attend them, to a certain degree officially.

The custom introduced into England, of mixing, on all public occasions, the French and Turkish standards with the British, has led to the adoption of a similar usage here, which, on certain occasions, has led to some singular rencontres. At the fête of the inauguration of the statue of Jeanne d'Arc at Orleans, the colours which presided at the burning of the heroine of Vancoeurs aided to do honour to her memory; and, on another occasion, the Turkish flag has been hoisted at a fête dedicated to the Virgin.

The excessive dearness of living has risen to such a point here that the poorer classes begin to murmur too loudly not to call the attention of Government to the state of affairs. It is expected that ere long certain measures will be proposed to ameliorate them; daily the evil is rising to a greater pitch; and the continuation of the war, to which is added the excessive backwardness of the season, causes much and painful preoccupation.

It appears that on the evening of the day on which the attempt was made on the life of the Emperor, the Empress received a telegraphic despatch from M. de Turgot, announcing that he had obtained certain information to the effect that the secret societies were contemplating such a measure. It appears by different foreign journals that an anonymous letter to the same effect was sent about the same time to the Pope. Up to the last, no information on this subject could be obtained from Pianori, but some intelligence has been arrived at in Toulouse, which related to the intention of such an attempt on the return of the Emperor from London.

Preparations have been made in the *orangeries* of the Tuileries and the other palaces in Paris, for placing the orange-trees in the open air, but such is the rigour of the weather that it has not yet been considered safe to expose them. The cold baths on the Seine have also deferred opening; and a few days since, a large flock of swallows, having arrived for the season, felt so little encouraged by the state of the temperature to take up their summer residence in the capital, that, after flying round it two or three times, they again took their departure. Fires continue to be kept up in every house, and winter clothing is almost universally worn.

France seems disposed to adopt an idea already carried out in America, tending to prevent the growing degeneration which some statisticians assert to be taking place in the human race. A Dr. Munarot, who has devoted much attention to the matter, and who has endeavoured to discover and prove the various causes of this alleged degeneration, has proposed to

the Agricultural Committee, at Gisors, the establishment of an exhibition, with prizes, for the display, among the labouring and trading classes, of the finest and best-constituted infants from the age of one to two years. The Committee has taken the proposal into consideration.

The sudden death of M. Pleyel, the celebrated manufacturer of pianos and himself a distinguished musician, has excited sincere regret in the musical world. Camille Pleyel was the most intimate friend of Chopin, and a host of celebrities in all branches ranked among the friends and admirers of the man and of the artist.

### AMERICA.

The mail-steamer *Pacific*, which sailed from New York on the 2nd inst., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday. The city and state of New York appear to be principally occupied with rival meetings of the friends of temperance and their opponents the retail liquor-dealers and those interested in that trade. The present licenses were to expire on the 8th inst., and would not be renewed. After that date, persons selling spirits in less quantity than five gallons would be liable to a fine of 25 dollars for each offence. The trade were attempting to prove that the prohibition was unconstitutional, and were obtaining legal opinions to that effect. There was to be a great gathering of teetotallers at Boston on the 8th, the main object of which would be to make the enforcement of the new Massachusetts prohibitory liquor-law an easy matter. Governor Gardner was to preside on the occasion, and a strong delegation from New York and other States would participate.

Recruiting for the Foreign Legion of the British service is going on vigorously at Boston, under the direction of the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia. Although the agents make no secret of their business, the authorities have not as yet interfered with them.

The citizens of the Kansas territory expelled their Governor, and summoned the different districts to send one delegate each to Leavenworth city, on the 28th April, to select a new Governor, whose appointment the President of the United States was to be requested to confirm. The expelled Governor, the Hon. A. H. Reeder, has been welcomed by a public meeting on his return to Pennsylvania, when he stated that—

The territory of Kansas, in her late election, had been invaded by a regular organised army, armed to the teeth, who took possession of their ballot-boxes, and made a Legislature to suit the purpose of the pro-slavery party. Kansas was subdued, subjugated, and conquered by armed men from Missouri; but her citizens were resolved never to give up the fight for their freedom and the independence of their soil from foreign control or interference. The State of Missouri would be called upon to disavow all sympathy with these border ruffians. If she refused, the South would be called upon to disavow her. If the South refused, the solemn duty would devolve upon the North to take up the matter, so that the right of her sons who had settled in Kansas, on the faith of solemn compacts, shall be vindicated and sustained. He declared that the accounts of the fierce outrages and wild violence perpetrated at the election, published in the Northern papers, were in nowise exaggerated.

The affair is likely to be an embarrassing one for the Cabinet of President Pierce, and is only another of those awkward occurrences which will be repeated in one shape or another till the Slavery question is finally settled. The *New York Herald* looks upon it as the result of "the desperate expedient of repealing the Missouri compromise, and of leaving the local institutions of Kansas and Nebraska in the hands of the people of those territories." It then proceeds:—

The consequences are before us. The Hon. J. M. Porter, in his address of welcome to Governor Reeder, at Easton, has truly suggested that the late lawless invasion of the Kansas was produced "by the fanatical Abolitionists of the North." They threatened to overwhelm all opposition, and to make Kansas an advanced camping-ground of the Northern anti-slavery alliance, by throwing a mass of free-soil squatters into the territory, sufficient to vote down all resistance, and to make the colony the most thorough-going anti-slavery State in the Union. The slave-holding people of the Missouri very naturally became alarmed. Look at their situation. It is somewhat critical. They have the free State of Illinois on their front; and the free State of Iowa on their left flank; and in view of another free State of the Massachusetts anti-slavery type in their rear, it was natural enough that they should become intensely excited in reference to the future security of their slave property. The Missourians, on the western side of the State, looked upon this abolition colonisation of the Kansas as the deliberate establishment of a rendezvous and place of refuge for their fugitive slaves. Therefore, however unwise or injurious to themselves the policy of their late hostile and unlawful invasion of Kansas, it was doubtless adopted as a measure of self-defence. Regarding these anti-slavery squatters as a combination of seditions and treacherous slave-stealers, and as neighbours whose presence can only be productive of mischief among their black population, the Missourians have fallen back upon the fundamental law of the strong hand to nip the conspiracy of their enemies in the bud.

Mr. Soulé, the late American Minister at Madrid, has been received by his admirers at a public meeting in New Orleans, when, in replying to the resolutions of congratulation on his return, this "diplomatic model man" is reported to have made use of the following sentence:—"I come back to you with a heart undaunted by the ire which the mere mention of my name has had the privilege of provoking in the torpid breast of the crowned cut-throat who rules over France, and with a brow on which the most abject and reckless calumnies have not as yet been able to start a blush."

Colonel Kinney, of the Nicaragua expedition, charged with meditating a breach of the neutrality laws, has been held to bail in a sum of 10,000 dollars.

The latest news from New Mexico, consist of accounts of skirmishes between the Government troops and parties of Utah and Apache Indians. It would appear that this Indian war will be both troublesome and costly.

In California a Know-Nothing convention has been held in Sacramento, at which it was determined to support the nominee of the American party at the next Presidential election; to uphold the Constitution in all its compromises; and to maintain the principles embodied in the Nebraska Bill to their fullest extent.

### THE OVERLAND MAIL.

The steamer *Calcutta* arrived at Trieste on Tuesday morning, in 131 hours from Alexandria.

The Indian mails bring news from Calcutta of the 10th April and from Bombay of the 17th April. A treaty was signed with Hyder Khan at Peshawar on the 30th March, by Mr. Lawrence, containing three articles:—1. Perpetual peace between Dost Mahomed and the English. 2. The English to respect the territories of Dost Mahomed. 3. Dost Mahomed to recognise the territories of the East India Company. There are rumours of hostile preparations at Ava against the English. There had been fighting between Golab Singh and his nephew. The Afreedees have been chastised by Colonel Craige. Lord Dalhousie's health at Ootacamund has greatly improved.

A MEETING of Protestants was held yesterday at the Amphitheatre, Liverpool, Dr. McNeill in the chair, to discuss the propriety of continuing the endowment of the College of Maynooth.

THE HORTICULTURAL FETE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—It appears that the horticultural fete, announced to be held at the Crystal Palace on the 2nd of June, is exciting great interest amongst the florists and private gardeners of all parts of the country. The leading horticulturists, almost without exception, intend exhibiting, and many are keeping back their best plants for this occasion. There is every reason to believe that this will be the finest show of flowers and fruit that has ever taken place. The prizes range from £30 each, and amount in all to above £1000.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS A "CASINO."—In the House of Lords on Tuesday Lord Redesdale complained that, on the previous night, ladies were in parts of the House to which they were not properly admissible, and he must say with a general prejudicial effect to the appearance of the House (laughter), and a spontaneous cry from every side of "Oh!" He granted that, although their Lordships were on that occasion surrounded by that which was most beautiful in creation ("Hear, hear," and renewed laughter), they must all have felt that the House wore the appearance of a "Casino" than a hall of legislation; that it was not such as fitted the debates of this House, and, being contrary to the orders of their Lordships, he trusted it would not be repeated. He hoped that if, in future, it was necessary to make other arrangements than the existing ones for the admission of ladies, those arrangements would be such as to confine them to the parts of the House which they were entitled to occupy by their Lordships' orders. Lord Grosvenor then mentioned some scenes at a French fete in which an English *Milord* was the principal character, and he objected very much to having ladies at dinner, because they were so displeasing to his eyes (A laugh). He (Earl Granville) never knew till now who was the original of that English *Milord* (loud laughter). He must also be permitted to add that he believed all their Lordships had not had the advantage which his noble friend seemed to possess, of being transported to the casino, and enjoying there those views of the female sex of which he appeared so nervous to deprive their Lordships (loud laughter). He accepted with pleasure this very satirical explanation of the noble Lord's why some of the speeches on the opposite side of the House last night were less effective than usual (A laugh).

## THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

Another week of inaction has passed before Sebastopol—at least the despatches which come down to the 16th relate nothing of much importance. Various sorties have been made by the Russians, as usual, all of which, we are duly informed, have been "vigorously repulsed;" but no indication is given of any movement into the interior. The letters received by the last steamer from Constantinople give some scraps from General Canrobert's address to the French army, at the review on the 26th ult., which show that something is intended. After mentioning that large reinforcements were about to arrive, he went on to say that they would soon be able to enlarge the basis of their operations. "France and England demand the taking of Sebastopol—it shall be taken. If we cannot enter by the gate, we shall enter by the window."

The most precise information regarding the progress of the siege comes from St. Petersburg. According to the *Invalide Russe*, the fire of the Allies, although described as moderate, caused a daily loss to the Russians of 100 to 175. The affair of the 2nd May, when the rifle-pits were taken, is thus described in a telegraphic despatch from Prince Gortschakoff, dated Sebastopol, May 3:—

From the 18th to the 19th of April (30th April to 1st May) the fire of the enemy was moderate, but on the evening of the 1st it became very heavy against Bastions 4 and 5. On the following night the besiegers concentrated some 10,000 men against our new works in front of Bastion 5, got possession of them after a vigorous attack, and captured nine small cohorn mortars inside; they were prevented progressing further by the fire of our batteries.

On the 20th April (2nd May) the enemy kept up a most violent fire against Bastions 4 and 5, and against the adjoining fortifications; but all the damage they did us was repaired during the night, and five times we successfully employed smoke-balls in their *entonnais*.

In a previous despatch Prince Gortschakoff states that on the 3rd of May a division of the Allied armies, amounting to from 10,000 to 15,000 men, embarked in the greater part of the vessels before Sebastopol, and proceeded to sea in a north-easterly direction along the coast. The squadron passed Yalta and the Bay of Kaffa, until it reached the Straits of Kerch; but, after showing itself off that place, appears suddenly to have been recalled, and sailed back to Kamiesch Bay, where it arrived on the 8th of May, without having attempted anything against the enemy. Nothing is said regarding the object of this expedition in any of the recent letters from the Crimea; but private letters from Constantinople explain why it returned in so sudden and unexpected a manner. It appears that the Emperor of the French, without knowing that the expedition had sailed, sent orders by telegraph for ships to be dispatched to Constantinople to transport the French army of reserve to the Crimea. The result was that the vessels were immediately recalled for that purpose.

News from Eupatoria to the 29th ult. has been received. A reconnaissance had been made by Omer Pacha, who ascertained that the village of Saki, in the vicinity, contained 25,000 Russians, and a considerable quantity of war matériel. There was some rumour of an intention to take possession of the village.

### THE BALTIC FLEET.

Admiral Dundas left Faro Sound on the 8th inst., in the *Duke of Wellington*, and, with twenty-four other vessels, proceeded to Elfsnabben. The *Driver* steamer, which arrived at Dantzic on the 10th, reports the Gulf of Finland as packed with ice from Revel to Finland, so that all communication with the shore was impracticable.

Letters from Stockholm complain that all direct communication with Finland is cut off by the blockade, so that the mails are now sent by land all round the Gulf of Bothnia, and have to perform a journey of more than a thousand miles, the distance not being a hundred miles in a direct line. The most recent accounts from Finland mention the activity of the Russians in preparing for the defence of the country, and give particulars of the corps that have arrived there from the interior. The Grand Duke Constantine is said to be indefatigable in his exertions to organise the Russian navy, and has drawn up a plan by which all the line-of-battle ships are to be fitted with steam machinery, and ultimately the screw. It is not said, however, where the steam machinery is to be made, or by whom. They cannot now get it from England, and, as the greater part of the English engineers and mechanics have returned home, and those that are still detained in Russia are not adequate to the work—even if they were induced by threats; or good pay to work for their country's enemy—it is difficult to understand how the Grand Duke will be able during the present war to transform his dull sailing ships into steamers.

In the meantime he has come down to Sveaborg, where there are half a dozen steam frigates, and it is said to be his intention to proceed with them to sea, to endeavour to pick up some of the ships of the blockading squadron. It is added that each of his steamers will take a line-of-battle ship in tow to cover his retreat if too hard pressed by the English frigates. If this news be confirmed, it will be glorious intelligence for our sailors, who desire nothing better than to catch the Russian ships out of port, and have a brush with them.

### TROUBLES IN RUSSIA.

The most important intelligence from St. Petersburg is the alleged resignation of Count Nesselrode, caused, it is said, by his opposition to the war party in the Russian Cabinet.

The cautious old Chancellor has, no doubt, good reason to argue in favour of accepting such terms as the Allies have offered. The recent accounts from the Ukraine represent the insurrectionary spirit among the peasantry as very far from being suppressed. In other parts of Russia the heavy requisitions are causing loud complaints, nor is it at all unlikely that the Government may find work enough for a large portion of its army at home, if the disaffection should spread, as is highly probable.

In Poland, on the other hand, where the repressive system has been carried out most rigorously, the Government has all at once adopted the mild method. Letters from Warsaw affirm that measures calculated to give just satisfaction to Poland are apparently expected there, and that the police has been extremely indulgent; so much so, that people talk freely of public matters at *cafés* and theatres—a thing unheard of before, and which excites the astonishment of all those who know what severity there was before. This, however, may be only a ruse of the authorities for the purpose of ascertaining what the real opinions of the people are, with a view to check any free movement in concert with the Allies.

### CURIOUS PROPHECIES ON THE WAR.

THE Rev. Dr. Cumming begs to enclose to the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS the following very curious old predictions, which, in reference to our present position, must interest.

7, Montague-place, May 14.

The Rev. Dr. Cumming quoted, in the course of a series of lectures he has been giving in Halkin-street, Belgrave-square, the following remarkable anticipation of present events—not, he said, as of inspired prophecies, but as proofs of early and sound interpretation of inspired prophecy. The following lines he quoted from an old volume of predictions, written in the fifteenth century. In 1453 the Turks took Constantinople. The poet says:—

In twice two hundred years, the Bear  
 The Crescent will assail;  
 But if the Cock and Bull unite,  
 The Bear will not prevail.  
 But mark, in twice ten years again  
 Let Islam know and fear—  
 The Cross shall stand, the Crescent wane,  
 Dissolve, and disappear.

The Rev. lecturer also quoted from a work in the Augustinian monastery at Rome, entitled, "De fluctibus mysticæ navis, 1675," in which are these remarkable words:—"Before the middle of the nineteenth century seditions will be excited everywhere in Europe; famines, pestilences, and earthquakes will spread desolation over many cities. Rome will lose her sceptre, the Pope will be made captive by his own people. A prince from the North will overrun Europe; his sword will vigorously defend the church, uphold the orthodox faith, and subdue the Moslem."

These, said the lecturer, were plainly drawn from inspired prophecy. Their fulfilment is evidence of their origin.

[NOTE OF THE EDITOR.—Perhaps Dr. Cumming will inform the world of the title of the "old volume," written in the fifteenth century, and further state where it may be seen? Without such information, "the cock and bull," referred to in the "prediction," will be applied, we fear, both by good and by ill-natured readers, to designate the character of the Rev. Doctor's communication to our columns.]



## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 475.)

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

This being Ascension-day no business was transacted in their Lordships' House.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Sir C. WOOD, in reply to Mr. Otway, said, that despatches had been received from Sir E. Lyons with respect to the naval attacks on the forts of Sebastopol, but they contained nothing of any importance; and, in such cases, it was not usual to lay them on the table.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE moved the second reading of the Public Prosecutors Bill.

Lord PALMERSTON, in the absence of the Attorney-General, moved as an amendment that the whole subject, which was one well deserving the consideration of the House, should be referred to a Select Committee.

After some conversation, Mr. J. G. Phillimore assented to the amendment, and to the postponement of his bill for six months, with the view of carrying out the suggestion of the noble Viscount.

Mr. DEEDS moved the second reading of the Parish Constables Bill, the object of which was to compel parishes to appoint superintendent constables in counties in which the Rural Police Act was not brought into operation.

Mr. RICE opposed the bill, thinking that such a measure should emanate from the Government.

Sir J. TROLLOPE moved that the bill be read that day six months.

Mr. COWPER said, he would support the bill with a view to its being amended in Committee.

After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time.

The Personal Estates of Intestates Bill passed through Committee.

Lord J. RUSSELL obtained leave to introduce a bill to enable her Majesty to assent to a Bill, as amended, of the Legislature of New South Wales, and to grant a Civil List to her Majesty.

Mr. LOWE contended that, if the bill passed, it would defeat the very object which it had in view, that of giving a new Constitution to New South Wales, and would in its operation defeat all attempts at good government in the colony. He suggested that all the Australian Bills should be sent to a Select Committee.

Lord J. RUSSELL objected to sending those bills to a Select Committee, thinking that such a course would be unjust to the colony.

Mr. DUFFY and Mr. W. WILLIAMS opposed the bill.

Mr. J. BALL defended the measure.

Lord J. RUSSELL also obtained leave to repeal the acts of Parliament now in force respecting the disposal of the Waste Lands of the Crown in her Majesty's Australian Colonies, and to make other provision in lieu thereof. The two bills were brought in and read a first time.

## BANQUET TO HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS.

On Wednesday evening the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, according to time-honoured custom, entertained her Majesty's Ministers and a numerous and highly distinguished party of ladies and gentlemen at a sumptuous banquet at the Mansion-house. The guests began to assemble in the reception-room at six o'clock, and the arrival of the noble Premier and Lady Palmerston was announced about half an hour later. The banquet took place in the Egyptian-hall, which was decorated on the occasion with the flags of England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia; and when the whole of the company had assembled, most of whom were attired in their official costumes, the coup-d'œil presented by the brilliant apartment surpassed in dazzling splendour the imposing spectacles for which these festivals have been so long and so justly famed.

Covers were laid for 270, and the company included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Palmerston, the Duke of Argyll, Sir George Grey, Lord John Russell, Sir Charles Wood, and the rest of the Cabinet; the Foreign Ambassadors and a large number of the nobility, and members of the House of Commons, and other gentlemen.

Grace after meat having been said by the Rev. Mr. Moon, the Lord Mayor's chaplain,

His Lordship rose and gave in succession "The Health of her Majesty" and "Prince Albert and the Royal Family."

The Lord Mayor then proposed in terms highly laudatory of their achievements, "The United Fleets and Armies of France and England," with which he coupled "The Health of the Commander-in-Chief and the First Lord of the Admiralty."

Viscount Hardinge and Sir Charles Wood respectively returned thanks on behalf of the two services.

Lord Palmerston made a brief speech in reply to the toast of the evening—"Her Majesty's Ministers, with which his name was coupled. After stating that the British army is as perfect in physical power, in spirit, and in everything that constitutes efficiency, as any British army that ever took the field, he made the following reference to the war:—"My Lord Mayor—We are now engaged in a great and arduous struggle; and although it may be justly said that we know little of this war except that which reaches us from abroad, that the thunders of the cannon roll far from our shores, that the flashes of battle are not seen by our eye, and that the pressure of the contest has not been felt within our land; yet, notwithstanding this—notwithstanding that the war has sat lightly upon us, however heavily we know it presses upon our antagonist, you may be sure of this, that it is, has been, and will be, our earnest desire to terminate that war at any moment at which terms can be obtained that are consistent with the dignity of the country and with the future security of peace (hear, hear). But the motto of this country will be that which I am sure it ought to be—Peace with honour, or war with victory."

"The House of Lords and the Duke of Argyll" was acknowledged by his Grace in a very able speech.

Lord John Russell, in replying to the toast of "The House of Commons," with which he was identified, took occasion to defend that branch of the Legislature from the charge brought against it by Lord Ellenborough. He did not believe that Parliament had lost weight in the country. It was not desirable that it should have lost weight. He thought the representatives of the people ought to preside over public affairs "with that deliberation, with that weight, and at the same time in that spirit which befits the representatives of a free people;" and he trusted that they would always do their duty, and that the people would have confidence in them.

Several other toasts were given, and the company separated at eleven o'clock.

## OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

## REAR-ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHER STRACHEY.

THE death of this gallant naval officer occurred on Saturday, the 5th inst. He was in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and had been above sixty years in the Royal Navy. During that lengthened period he greatly distinguished himself, and received a medal for his services afloat, besides the Order of St. Vladimir conferred on him by the Emperor Alexander, of Russia. In 1803, when commanding the *Jaques* sloop, while in company with the *Immortalité* and *Cruiser*, he fought a brilliant action off Cape Blanc Nez and captured a brig and schooner of war. In 1807, he assisted at the defence of Danzig.

Admiral Strachey was fourth son of the Venerable Archdeacon John Strachey Chaplain in Ordinary to George III.; whose eldest brother, Sir Henry Strachey M.P., was created a Baronet in 1801. The Admiral married Mademoiselle Marguerite, daughter of the Chevalier de Roche, of Verdun-sur-Meuse, Knight of St. Louis, and leaves, with other issue, a son, the present Leonard Marius Strachey, Esq., of Bownham, county Gloucester.

**WILLS AND PERSONALTY.**—The will of the Right Hon. John Viscount Ponsonby, G.C.B., has just been proved in London; the Right Hon. James Viscount Clifford, of Ashley Castle, personalty, £14,000; Major-General Henry William Adams, G.C.B., of Anstey-hall, £18,000; Joseph Levick, Esq., Sheffield, £50,000, within the province of Canterbury.

**CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.**—The Rev. Sheldon Jodrell, M.A., Rector of Saelington, Norfolk, has bequeathed to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, £500; Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, £500; Church Building Society, £500; Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, £200; Blind Institution, Norwich, £200; Eye Infirmary, Norfolk, £100; Norfolk and Norwich Magdalen Asylum, £100. The late Mr. John Ward has left £200 to the London Missionary Society, and £200 to the Baptists' Mission, and bequests to the Home Mission, Irish Evangelical, Colonial Missions, Continental, and other societies. Jacob Post, of the Society of Friends, left personalty £16,000, and bequeathed a legacy to each of the places of worship near his residence at Islington, namely, the parish church, Islington Chapel, Baptist, Wesleyan, Irvingites, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholics.

**APPOINTMENTS AND PREFERMENTS.**—*Rectories:* The Rev. T. Butler, B.D., to Theale, with North-street, in the county of Berks; the Rev. J. G. Darling, to Loughton, in the county of Lancashire. *Vicarages:* The Rev. J. H. Paramore, to Islington, in Norfolk; the Rev. H. W. P. Richards, to Isleworth, Middlesex; the Rev. W. Green, to Steeple Barton, in the county of Oxford. The Rev. H. B. Barry, M.A., Michel Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, has been appointed by her Majesty in Council one of her Majesty's Assistant Inspectors of Schools.

**EXECUTION OF PIANOS.**—Pianos were guillotined at five o'clock on Monday morning, in front of the prison of La Brette, near Pere la Chaise. Although the morning was wet and cold, and although no public announcement of the day of execution had been made, a very large number of people were assembled. Up to a late hour on Sunday night the authorities repeated to him an offer which has been frequently made—that his life should be spared if he would discover his confederates. His only answer was, that he had no revelation to make.

## METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS  
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, MAY 17.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barom. at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
May 11	29.547	63.0	44.1	48.6	— 3.2	94	S.W.	0.07
" 12	29.750	50.6	37.1	42.7	— 9.0	82	N.W.	0.35
" 13	29.552	49.0	32.0	40.2	— 11.5	89	S. & E.	0.01
" 14	29.645	52.6	38.2	44.2	— 7.7	86	N.	0.38
" 15	29.542	52.1	35.2	43.0	— 9.2	91	N.	0.60
" 16	29.651	51.6	41.3	45.4	— 7.1	87	N.	0.03
" 17	29.572	61.9	39.7	44.5	— 8.3	88	N.W.	0.04

NOTE.—The sign — denotes below the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer increased from 29.31 inches at the beginning of the week, to 29.81 inches by the 12th; decreased to 29.33 inches by the 13th; increased to 29.66 inches by the 14th; decreased to 29.53 inches by the 15th; and increased to 29.91 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week at the level of the sea, was 29.716 inches.

The mean daily temperatures have been below their average values on every day since April 20, in quantities varying from  $2^{\circ}$  to  $11^{\circ}$ ; the mean defect for the period averaging  $5^{\circ} 7'$  daily. The effect of this continued cold weather is shown in our health report, below.

The mean temperature of the week was  $44^{\circ} 10'$ —being  $8^{\circ}$  below the average.

The range of temperature during the week was  $31^{\circ}$ , being the difference between the highest reading on the 11th, and the lowest on the 13th.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was  $16^{\circ} 6'$ .

Rain fell during the week to the depth of nearly nine-tenths of an inch.

The weather throughout the week was dull and gloomy, and for the most part overcast all the time. On the 11th, at 3h. p.m., a thunder-storm occurred, with heavy peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning; and about 4h. p.m., the atmosphere was unusually dark and dense for a short time.

Lewisham, May 18, 1855.

JAMES GLAISHER.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—Within the week ending May 12, the births of 999 males and of 769 females were registered within the metropolitan districts—in all, 1678 children; the average number for the preceding ten years, in the nineteenth week of the year, are 737 boys and 736 girls. The number of deaths within the same interval of time, in the same districts, was 1183—viz., 616 males and 567 females; the average for the same week of the year, from the records of ten years, are 494 males and 489 females.—or together, 974 deaths. In order to compare this number with that of the deaths of last week, it is necessary to increase it in the proportion of the increase of population, and thus increased it becomes 1071, a number less by 112 than the number of deaths; thus showing the effect produced on the public health by this backward spring and cold weather, owing to which about 15 deaths daily have occurred lately above the numbers for the season.

**INSPECTION OF THE NEW METROPOLITAN CATTLE-MARKET.**—The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir George Cornewall Lewis, visited the New Metropolitan Cattle-market, at Copenhagen-fields, on Saturday, accompanied by John Wood, Esq., the Chairman of the Consolidated Committee of the Corporation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer intimated to the gentlemen connected with the Corporation his entire satisfaction at the arrangements which had been made for the premises, expressing, at the same time, his surprise at the exceedingly prompt manner in which the whole of the works had been carried out. The first market-day for the sale of cattle in the new Metropolitan Cattle-market will be on Friday, the 1st of June. The inauguration will take place a few days earlier.

**SUPPRESSION OF MENDICITY SOCIETY.**—On Saturday last the annual meeting of this society was held at their rooms, in Red Lion-square; the Marquis of Westminster, president, in the chair. After a few introductory remarks from the noble chairman, the report was read. It stated that the results of last year's operations were favourable to the society; the war, the demand for labour, and emigration, having diminished the pressure on its resources. The registered cases of applicants with ticket at the office had fallen from 419 in 1854, to 332 in 1855. The unregistered cases fell from 7661 to 6801. The meals given fell from 62,788 to 52,212. The money relief given to mendicants fell from £1263 to £1144. Meantime the income from donations and subscriptions remained nearly stationary, being £2977 in 1854, and £2935 in 1855. The number of vagrants committed had not varied much, being 334 in 1854, and 326 in 1855. There was a great diminution in the number of Irish applying for relief. During the severe frost in February last 494 men and women, independently of children, had been relieved, and 13,000 meals given. 3277 begging-letters had been sent for investigation, which was more by 232 than in 1854; of these 1000 had been favourably reported upon. Thirty-six fraudulent begging-letter-writers were apprehended and punished. The receipts of the year amounted to £4244 2s. 11d., and at its close there was a balance in hand, and at the bankers, of £786. The adoption of the report was carried unanimously.

**The City of London lease of the manor of Finsbury, held of the Prebendary of Finsbury, in the Church of St. Paul, for a total period of about 700 years, is about to fall in, and the large rental of Finsbury-square, and the adjoining streets, will belong to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.**—*Land and Building News.*

**ST. JOHN'S HOUSE TRAINING INSTITUTION FOR NURSES, QUEEN-SQUARE, WESTMINSTER.**—On Tuesday the seventh annual meeting of this excellent institution was held; the Bishop of London presided, and the Bishop of Oxford and several other influential supporters of the establishment were present. The Bishop of London observed that the institution had made rapid progress during the past year, and that the painful interest felt last autumn throughout the country in the sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals at Scutari, had done more to make known the existence and objects of St. John's House than had been done in all its previous history. In the sudden emergency, when the Government had determined to send sisters and nurses to the East, the council placed the St. John's House and its resources at their disposal, and twenty nurses had already gone, and others were preparing to follow them, to the several hospitals in the East. Of those, six were now at Smyrna, four at Scutari, ten at Kulule, two at Therapia, one (the senior nurse) at Balacava—one had died, and four had returned to England. Besides the extraordinary work abroad, the nursery had also been fully occupied at home. Two hundred sick persons had been attended in the past year, and the most satisfactory reports of the nurses had been received from all quarters. A large number of poor persons had received constant nursing and food; some of them uninterruptedly during the whole of the year. They had also taken charge of the men's cholera ward in Westminster Hospital, day and night, during the prevalence of that disease. The Rev. C. P. Shepherd (the master) read the report of the council, by which it appeared that the house at present numbered forty-two members—viz., four resident sisters, seven associate nurses, twenty-five nurses, and six probationers. The balance-sheet showed that the total income of the house during the past year amounted to £2503 14s. 11d., of which upwards of £500 consisted of extraordinary donations towards the fund for sending nurses to the East. The total expenditure in the same period amounted to £1641 11s. 5d. The report was adopted.

**THE ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.**—The fifteenth anniversary festival of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital was celebrated on Wednesday night, at the London Tavern. The chair was taken by the Marquis of Westminster, vice-president of the hospital, and the company at the cross table included Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Quarles Harris (the founder of the hospital), Mr. Tamplin (the principal surgeon), and other gentlemen immediately connected with the institution. After the usual loyal and constitutional toasts, the noble chairman proposed the toast of the evening—"Success to the Royal Orthopædic Hospital," in a very able speech, seasoned with much humour and many classical allusions. The noble chairman concluded the proceedings by proposing the health of Mr. B. Maskell, in acknowledgement of his zeal and assiduity as secretary to the hospital. The subscriptions announced amounted to the sum of £2100.

**POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.**—The Queen has been graciously pleased to forward, through Colonel Phipps, to Mr. Pepper, the resident director, the sum of £100, as an acknowledgment of her Majesty's approbation of the various entertainments presented on the recent occasion of the Royal visit to this institution. Her Majesty has also been pleased to purchase a photograph exhibited in the institution the same evening. The subject being an artistic design representing a soldier who had lost an arm at the battle of Inkerman, and whose child—a little girl of some six or seven years of age—is looking up into his face with an expression of grief at her father's misfortune. The picture conveys the portrait of Sergeant Dawson, who, it may be remembered, was promoted for his bravery at the battle of the Alma.

**MARYLEBONE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.**—A handsome silver inkstand has just been presented by the members of the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution to their President, Mr. Jacob Bell. The presentation took place in the lecture-hall of the institution, at the half-yearly general meeting on Tuesday, the 8th inst., and was witnessed by a crowded gallery of the lady friends of the members. An address, with the names of subscribers, was splendidly emblazoned on vellum by two of the members.

## NATIONAL SPORTS.

RACING will "rule the court, the senate, and the grove" next week; but great as is the amount of money invested on the Derby favourites, the public interest is nothing equal to that felt in the years when Cossack, Surplice, Flying Dutchman, Voltigeur, and West Australian were "household words" for weeks before.

On Monday, nine of Lord Spencer's yearlings will be sold at Tattersall's, including six by his Lordship's favourite Cotherstone. The principal features of the sport at Epsom on Tuesday are the Woodcote Stakes for two-year-olds, nearly all of which are "dark;" and the Summer Handicap, for which eighteen have accepted. Among them are Nabob, 8 st. 10 lb.; Hermit, 8 st. 1 lb.; and Vanderdecken, 7 st. 8 lb. On Wednesday, the Epsom Cup, which produced such a noble contest last year between Kingston and Ratanplan, has a very great entry. The latter horse is in it again, along with Nabob, Acrobat, Andover, Virago, Scythian, Knight of St. George, Hermit, Orestes, &c. As far as we can hear up to the present date, the field for the Derby will not be very large. The starters and their jockeys will include De Clare (Templeman), Graculus Esuriens, or Bonny Morn (Holmes), Noisy (Goater), Lord of the Isles (Aldcroft), Dirk Mattered (Marlow), Kingstown (A. Day), St. Hubert (Wells), Oulston (Maton), Flatterer (Bartholomew), Rifleman (Nat), Wild Dayrell (Charlton), Benham (Clement), and Rotherham (Job Marson). Among the more doubtful division may be reckoned Shoreham, The Cropper, Monge, Corebus, Claret, Lord Alfred (Osborne), Rambling Katie (Prince), and Rylstone (G. Oates). We have, in fact, strong doubts whether more than twenty, if so many, will answer the saddling summons—a very slight array as compared with former years. To judge from the betting, Graculus and Bonny Morn are "quite gone," although the final trial at Leatherhead has, it is said, not taken place; but the *cognoscenti* did not at all admire the way in which De Clare was spurred on both sides to beat his horses at Newmarket. Noisy merely makes the running for Lord of the Isles; and St. Hubert is reported to be lame, though others fancy that he has been tried at the Derby distance, and found wanting. The Bath quotations have been as fatal to him as they were to Autocrat and King Tom last year; 25 to 1 is now obtainable against him, and hence it will not surprise us to see Wells on Oulston. A conspiracy to get at Wild Dayrell has been discovered and foiled; and his friends say that he is in first-rate order, and able to do what he likes with his stable friend, Jack Sheppard. The "Squire's" friends confidently aver that Rifleman can give two stone to Claret, and beat Indian Warrior at even weights. Newmarket will, we fear, have no representative, now that Polydore and Afghan have turned out so badly, unless Pugnator (Hogers) comes. Dirk seems no favourite with the Middleham people, and we do not hear that any of them have backed Rotherham. We have seen few more Derby-looking horses than Rifleman; and, if public running be true, we should expect to see him win, with Wild Dayrell and Kingstown not far behind. If Rotherham's looks in 1854 be an index to his capabilities in 1855, he seems as dangerous an outsider as any.

On Thursday an uninteresting two-year-old stakes' and countless plates will make up a conventionally dull afternoon's sport; and the Oaks, on Friday, does not promise to be a very stirring affair. The scratching of Habena has quite taken the fire out of it; and we are assured that she galloped on Tuesday last as well as she ever did in her life. Her scratching is a mysterious business, and Newmarket was never so indignant at anything, time out of mind, as every one there had backed her. The starters, as far as we can see at present, seem likely to comprise Dame Judith (Aldcroft), Marchioness (Templeman), Mosquito (Bartholomew), Blooming Heather (Charlton), Lady Tatton (Osborne), Morgan la Faye (Prince), Capucine (Marson), and Nettle (Marlow). Among the doubtfuls are Besika, Antoinette, Cypriana, Clotilde, and Gay, &c. The performances of the 2000-guinea Nettle are far the best on the list, and she has been heavily backed, although it is rumoured (and her tottering position at Tattersall's confirms it) that she has been a little "off" of late. Morgan la Faye has been highly tried, and ought to be very near winning, if this report of Nettle be true. Capucine is a very light thing, and looks more like speed than a distance. Dame Judith is not much backed as yet; and we fancy that none of John Scott's trio are of a very high order. Capucine's running in the 1000 guineas should make her good enough to win the Surrey Foal Stakes, for which Shoreham and Pugnator will probably meet her.

There are no other racing fixtures on the list for the week, either in England or Ireland; but the Tipperary annual steeplechases will occupy their admirers on Monday and Tuesday, and those at Portumna on Tuesday. Among the yachting appointments for the week are the sailing-match of the Royal Thames Yacht-club, and the Royal Mersey Yacht-club opening trip, on Saturday; while the Cambridge University commences its one-pair oar races on Thursday. The sister University will be engaged on the same day with a cricket-match—to wit, twenty-two of Christ Church against the All England eleven; and those who choose to stroll up to Lord's ground on Monday will come in for a one-day match between the Marylebone Club and ground against the St. John's-wood Club.

## BATH AND SOMERSET COUNTY RACES.—TUESDAY.

Lansdowne Stakes.—Van Tromp, 1. Octavia, 2.  
Three-Year Old Biennial Stakes.—Oulston, 1. Sandboy, 2.  
Two-Year Old Biennial Stakes.—Coroner, 1. Stork, 2.  
Somerstshire Stakes.—Typee, 1. Humboldt, 2.  
Selling Stakes.—Donna, 1. Prince of Wales, 2.  
Members' Plate.—Vingt-un, 1. Vandenhoff, 2.

## WEDNESDAY.

Weston Stakes.—Ceres, 1. Sugar Cane, 2.  
City Cup.—Ratanplan, 1. Triton, 2.  
Dyrham-Park Handicap.—Le Juif, 1. Vingt-Un, 2.  
Aristocratic Handicap.—Royalist, 1. Waterfall, 2.  
Sweepstakes of 500s.—Bordeaux, 1. Sauve que Peut, 2.  
Short's Handicap.—Novice, 1. Fearless, 2.

**SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.**—The proprietor of this establishment is preparing for this season's exhibition a gigantic modelled picture of Sebastopol, painted by Mr. Danson, from drawings made on the spot specially for the purpose. An attempt will be made to give the public an idea of the military operations of attack and defence, as now actually carried on by the belligerent forces; and a considerable number of the wounded heroes of the Alma, Balacava, and Inkerman will assist in the mimic sorties and other manoeuvres of the siege, which will form the grand feature of the spectacle.

**POST-OFFICE AT THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION IN PARIS.**—GENERAL POST-OFFICE, MAY, 1855.—The Postmaster-General has received the following notice from the Director-General of the French Post-office (Translation):—"The public is informed that a post-office will be established in the building of the Universal Exhibition in Paris for the time during which the Exhibition lasts. Natives of France, and foreigners residing in the neighbourhood of the building, or obliged to spend the greater part of their time there, and persons who, at the time of their leaving home, do not know where they shall fix their abode in Paris, may have their letters addressed to them at the Post-office at the Exhibition. These letters will be kept at the office, and will be delivered to the persons to whom they are addressed, on the presentation of their passports, or of any other documents which may be sufficient to establish their identity. The letters should be directed as follows:—"A Monsieur —, Bureau de Poste du Palais de l'Exposition Universelle, à Paris." Letters addressed to exhibitors will be delivered in the same way; or, if the particular part of the building in which the exhibitor may be found is stated in the address of the letter, it will be carried to that place by the letter-carrier. Further, the public will find at the Post-office of the Exhibition all the facilities afforded in other French Post-offices, for the purchase of postage-stamps, the payment of postage, the transmission of money, &c.—ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.

**THE PREVENTION OF SMOKE IN STEAM-VESSELS.**—A highly-satisfactory experiment was tried at Portsmouth on Saturday, by Captain the Hon. Joseph Denman and the scientific officers of her Majesty's yacht and dockyard, on board the *Royal Steamer the Plover*, with Mr. Pridmore's turbine valves, for the prevention of smoke, which were engaged at the Illustrated London News April 7. The experiment took place in the middle of the fleet at Spithead, and excited considerable attention. Not only was the smoke completely got rid of, and with West Hartley's (C) valves, but the steam was kept up in the boilers at full pressure after one hour's steaming, the fuel being consumed without any diminution of the steaming power of the engines. Upon Mr. Pridmore's valve being put in motion, and the ordinary doors substituted, the thermometer, which had previously stood at 60 degrees, rose to 66; exemplifying what must certainly be regarded as one of the most valuable features of this invention—viz., that during its use the exterior of the fire furnace door always remains perfectly cool, so that to what extent the time in the furnace may be passed.

The Victoria Rifles will muster for target practice every Wednesday afternoon during the summer, at their shooting-ground at Kilburn.

**RENFREW COUNTY ELECTION.**—Sir Michael Shaw Stewart was elected M.P. for this county on Monday last, without opposition, in the room of Colonel Mure.





FETE OF JOAN OF ARC AT ORLEAIS.—THE HISTORICAL PROCESSION.

THE FETES OF JOAN OF ARC, AT ORLEAIS.

On Monday, the 6th of May, great rejoicings took place in the ancient city of Orleans on the occasion of the erection of a statue to Joan of Arc. The many historical buildings for which Orleans is noted were decorated in the style of the fifteenth century. Architecture, sculpture, elegance, music—were all put in requisition to do honour to that illustrious woman of the middle ages, known in England as the Maid of Orleans, but more familiarly spoken of in France as the Pucelle, or "Maid." The fete lasted four days; and commenced on the morning of Sunday with a grand musical festival held in the Town-hall, which was brilliantly illuminated for the occasion. In the evening another concert took place on a still larger scale, which attracted upwards of five thousand persons. One of the principal pieces was a beautiful

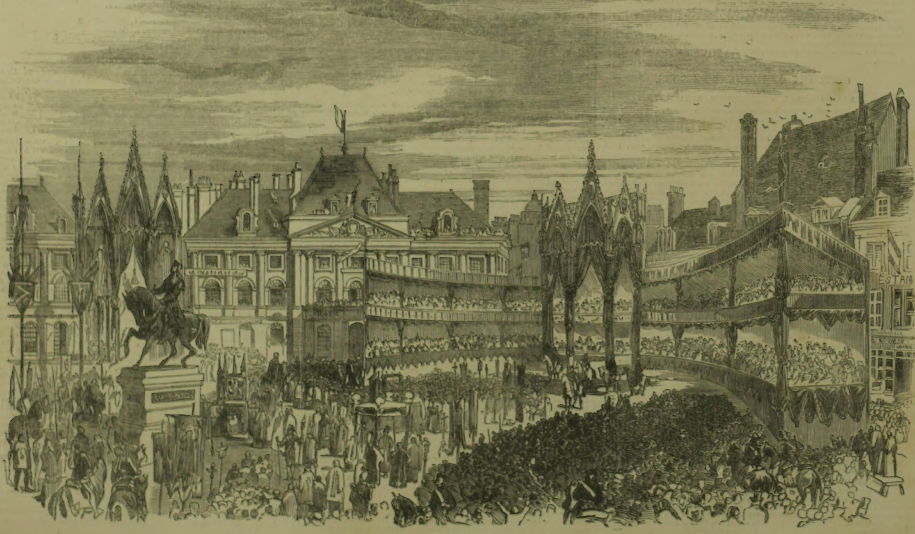
symphony, with a chorus in three parts, which described in a touching manner the career of the beloved Jeanne from the time when she strayed in the peaceful fields of Domremy down to the time of her victory and cruel death. The violin of Sivert (worthy successor of Tregiani) commenced the concert by a composition in honour of the Pucelle; and M. Jules Lefebvre, one of the chief ornaments of the French Opera, concluded it by a magnificent cavalcade which won for him the applause of the assembled multitude. On the morrow the festivities recommenced with increased splendour. From early twilight the bells of the Town-hall pealed the same music which they pealed in the year 1429, after the capture of the town by Joan of Arc. About noon a mass was celebrated in the cathedral, and in the evening the Historical Cavalcade (of which we have given an illustration) made the round of the city. The gorgeous procession followed the same route as that which had been taken

by the victorious troops of the heroine four hundred and twenty-five years ago. The streets were thronged with jubilant crowds; thousands of allegorical illuminations blazed from the houses, while the air was filled with many coloured fire-balloons and Bengal lights. The cavaliers, who formed the bulk of the procession, were dressed in the costume of the fifteenth century, and were preceded by torch-bearers, bowmen, heralds, pages, and men in armour. The principal banners were borne by the descendants of those valiant knights who fought side by side with Joan of Arc, and whose names on that account are so dear to France—Dunois was represented by M. le Vicomte de Morogues; Jean de Brocme, Marshal de St. Servis, by one of his descendants, a M. de Masse; Jean d'Aulon, the Esquerry of the Pucelle, by M. de Vailhau; Le Hér, by M. le Vicomte de Liniers; Marshal Laffayette, by M. de Frossinet; Olivier de Saussey, by his direct descendant, M. de la Saussey; Louisa-

General Heret Laurens, by a descendant, &c. After making the prescribed round, the cavalcade returned about midnight to the place whence it had started. On Tuesday the fete was opened by a grand service at the Cathedral, which was decorated in the most gorgeous style. Near the principal entrance hung the shield of Joan of Arc, together with a sword, representing the Crown of France; underneath which was traced the motto—*Consentis ferreus Dei*. The aisles were lined with orifammes and banners of those towns which had sent succour to Orleans. In front of the pulpit stood the banner of the Pucelle—a rich white flag ornamented with golden lilies and a representation of the Saviour seated on a throne, with two angels kneeling; and the inscription—"Joan Maria." The mass was performed by the curé of Domremy, assisted by a great number of ecclesiastical celebrities, forming a cortege of unusual pomp.

"At the end of the service," says a local journal, "M. Dupanloup mounted the pulpit from which so many orators have sounded the glory of the deliverer of France, and preached a sermon so beautiful, so touching in its simplicity, and at the same time so manly and so much to the purpose, that many persons, were seen to turn their heads away to hide tears they were unable to restrain and which they were foolish enough to be ashamed of." After the sermon, the grand procession to the Fort de Troville took place. It was escorted by bands of young girls dressed in blue, and wearing garlands of violets interwoven with gold. Next came the clergy, the civil functionaries of all ranks, in grand costume; then the guests, who had been invited from distant parts to assist at the ceremony; then the descendants of the family of which Joan of Arc was the daughter, the "observed of all observers;" then the torch-bearers, the religious communities, charity children, and, lastly, the venerable prelate

who had delivered the morning oration. This splendid cortege took three hours in passing through the avenue of breathless spectators. When it arrived at the new monument in the Place du Martini a solemn stillness prevailed. All at once the awning surrounding the monument was seen to fall slowly, disclosing the flowing locks of the woman, which glowed in the sunshine; still at length the whole statue was disclosed to view, and then the clamour of bells began, and the booming of cannon, increased in the roar of thousands of voices. In the evening another grand general illumination took place, which lit up the country round about, and filled the streets with artificial daylight. A grand official banquet was also held at the prefecture, at which all the nobilities of the district were present. The fete was concluded on Wednesday evening, by public games and a ball, which rivalled in splendour even those of the Hôtel de Ville, at Paris.



INAUGURATION OF THE STATUE OF JOAN OF ARC AT ORLEAIS.



FETE OF JOAN OF ARC.—ORLEAIS ILLUMINATION.



## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, May 20.—Sunday after Ascension-day.  
 MONDAY, 21.—First Railway Act passed, 1801.  
 TUESDAY, 22.—Alexander Pope born, 1688.  
 WEDNESDAY, 23.—Trinity Term begins.  
 THURSDAY, 24.—Queen Victoria born, 1819.  
 FRIDAY, 25.—Princess Helena born, 1846.  
 SATURDAY, 26.—Oxford Term ends.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 26.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
4 33	4 51	5 10	5 32	5 52	6 17	6 41
7 7	7 37	8 10	8 46	9 24	10 25	11 25

**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.**—The Lectures and Exhibition, as delivered before her Most Gracious Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Patron of the Institution, will be continued, consisting of the Telephone Concert, Dissolving Views of Sinbad the Sailor, Duboscq's Illuminated Cascade, the Diorama illustrating the Voyage Across the Atlantic and the Cities in the United States. Lectures on Songs and Song Writers, by George Buckland, Esq. Dissolving Views of the War, &c., &c.  
 MONDAY EVENING, 21st.—LECTURE TO THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSES: HISTORY of a CORAL ISLAND, by TREVETHAN SPICER, LL.D.

**LUMINOUS and CHROMATIC FOUNTAIN,** at the ROYAL PANOPTICON, Leicester-square, at 4.55 and 9.55. The Institution is open—Morning, 12 to 5; Evening, 7 to 10. Schools and Children Half-price.

**TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED and THIRTY-FIRST REPRESENTATION OF LOVE'S ENTERTAINMENT IN LONDON.**—ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY-FIFTH CONSECUTIVE NIGHT of the PRESENT PIECES, on MONDAY, MAY 21, at the REGENT GALLERY, 69, Quadrant, where Mr. LOVE now appears every Evening at Eight, except Saturday. Saturday at Three.

**ROYAL GALLERY of ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street.** The DIORAMA illustrating the Events of WAR is now Exhibiting Daily at Three and Eight. The Lectures by Mr. Stocquer. Admission 1s., 2s., and 3s.

**THE CHALON EXHIBITION.—SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—This Collection of the Paintings, Drawings, and Sketches of the late JOHN CHALON, Esq., R.A.; with a Selection from the Works of ALFRED E. CHALON, Esq., R.A., will be OPENED at the Society's House, Adelphi, on THURSDAY, JUNE 7th. Admission, 1s.

**HITSUN HOLIDAYS.—THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.** REGENT-PARK, will be OPEN to Visitors EVERY DAY during Whitsun Week, except SATURDAY, on payment of SIXPENCE each person. The Military Band will commence their performance on Saturday, May 26.

**MAINE LAW.—A PUBLIC PRELIMINARY MEETING** will be held, by the United Kingdom Alliance, on MONDAY EVENING next, MAY 21, in ST. MARTIN'S HALL, Long-acre. Chair taken at Seven o'clock. Admission free.

**JOHN B. GOUGH** will deliver TWO ORATIONS in EXETER-HALL, as follows:—WHIT-MONDAY, May 28, and THURSDAY, May 31. Doors open each evening at Seven, Chair taken at Eight o'clock. Tickets to the Royal Galleries, 2s. 6d. each; Front Seats and Platform, 1s. each; Back Seats, 6d. each; to be had at 337, Strand, or at the door of the Hall.

**UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE** (Formed June 1st, 1853), for the Total and Immediate Legislative Suppression of the Traffic in all Intoxicating Beverages.—A PUBLIC MEETING of the Members and friends of the Alliance will be held, in EXETER-HALL, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 30, 1855, at Six o'clock. The Meeting will be addressed by the Right Hon. the Earl of Harrington, K.C.B.; Alderman Sir R. W. Gaden, J.P.; Laurence Heyworth, Esq., M.P.; Samuel Bowley, Esq., Gloucester; Richard Bidditch, Esq., Barrister-at-Law; Samuel Pope, Esq., Honorary Secretary; and several noblemen and distinguished supporters of the movement. Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart., the President of the Alliance, will preside. Tickets of admission (free) may be obtained at the offices of the Alliance, 41, John Dalton-street, Manchester; at W. Tweedie's, 337, Strand; or at 65, Bishopsgate-street Within.

## REPEAL OF THE COMPULSORY NEWSPAPER STAMP.

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## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1855.

THE Government having carried its bill for the settlement of the Newspaper-stamp question—on which its predecessors allowed themselves to get into difficulties by the non-enforcement of an existing law—the proprietors and conductors of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS have the honour to announce to the numerous and continually-increasing body of their readers, the measures which they have determined to adopt in consequence of the change. They may take occasion to state that, so far from having any complaint to urge against the Legislature for its interference with the interests of established newspapers, they supported the measure of Sir Cornwall Lewis; and in fact suggested it to the Government as the only compromise which it would be possible to carry through Parliament. For the future the stamp on newspapers will be optional. Those who desire a cheap press, may have it cheapened to the extent of the virtually abolished stamp duty; but without the privilege of transmission and re-transmission by post. Those to whom the postal privilege is essential, will find that the alteration of the law has produced no considerable change, and that almost the only result of the measure is the much-needed disappearance of a great scandal—a law which it was impossible or inexpedient to enforce, and which was daily and weekly set at defiance, in every part of the country.

The proprietors of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, after mature consideration of the subject in all its bearings, have resolved to give their readers a far greater advantage from the new measure than could be afforded by the reduction of the price of their Journal from sixpence to fivepence, which is the utmost reduction they would have been warranted in making by adherence to the letter of the law. Even this small reduction, if made, could only apply to the case of those who did not wish to transmit their papers through the post, and would leave a large proportion of their subscribers in the British isles, and the whole of their subscribers on the continent of Europe, at the Cape, in India, in China, in Australia, in North and South America, and in every place where the English language is understood, or where British trade, curiosity, or love of adventure is able to penetrate, in exactly the same position as before. Instead of minimising in this manner the change to be effected, the proprietors of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS—a Journal which may proudly claim to be an "English institution," and which is seen and read, and we hope admired, in every part of the civilised world—have resolved, immediately after the passing of Sir Cornwall Lewis's bill, to increase its size, and to issue weekly, at the cost of sixpence (unstamped) a DOUBLE SHEET, containing thirty-two pages, or ninety-six columns of letter-press and Engravings. In other words, the Double Sheet, instead of being occasional, and charged a shilling, will be published weekly at the price of sixpence. The price of the stamped edition for the

post will be raised to sevenpence. This change will entail upon us a very large additional outlay. The mere extra paper which we shall consume will amount to several hundreds of pounds per week, as any one may calculate. To say that we do not expect our reward for such a large increase of our expenditure would be affectation. We do expect it—in the shape of a largely-increased sale. Our average circulation, with our present single sheet and half supplement, is upwards of 170,000 per week. When our size is doubled, and we have more space at command to make the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS a still more copious and accurate record than it now is—not only of Politics and News, but of the progress of Literature, Music, the Drama, and the Fine Arts—we believe that a sale of a QUARTER of A MILLION of copies per week will by no means be the ultimate limit to which our popularity and our usefulness will attain. As soon as the new law shall come into operation, we shall commence the new and enlarged series, and hope to prove—no less by the beauty and the quantity of our engravings, than by the general completeness and efficiency of our Journal in every department—that, quality considered, it is in every respect the cheapest newspaper in the world. It is possible that the mechanical arrangements for printing so large an impression may not be so perfectly completed as to enable us to publish a double sheet every week during the first month; but if there should be any hiatus and we should be compelled, in default of these arrangements, to issue only a single sheet and half-supplement, as we do this week, we must beg the temporary indulgence of our readers and subscribers. They may be assured, in such case, that the difficulty will be speedily surmounted; and that, when our mechanical arrangements are finally made, they shall receive the double sheet with the utmost regularity. We do not pledge ourselves never, under any circumstances whatever, to issue a *treble* number, price one shilling. But, with the increased space which will be every week at our disposal by our new arrangements, such circumstances, if they occur at all, will, of necessity, be rare. If we are driven at any time to such an expedient to keep pace with the all-engrossing topics either of peace or war, our readers may be assured that it will be only in case of the absolute impossibility of otherwise recording and illustrating, in a befitting manner, the great events of our time.

The factitious excitement which was caused by the announcement of the motion brought on by Lord Ellenborough on Monday night, the perilous debate which it initiated, and the majority by which the noble Earl's resolutions were negatived, could occasion little surprise to a calm observer of political events. The insincerity of the whole proceeding has been too apparent to allow the demonstration to take a place even in the history of faction.

The scene in the Gilded Chamber of Peers was a brilliant one, and, to the unthinking part of the audience, we doubt not that Monday afforded as pleasant an evening as could have been obtained in town. The ladies crowded the House to such an extent as to infringe upon positions to which they had no claim, and to draw from Lord Redesdale the excessively impolite remark that they "made the place look like a casino"—an observation which has an increased point for those who know his Lordship's own waiter-like costume. Strangers filled every corner into which they could be crammed, and the highest Legislative Assembly in the world presented much the appearance of an aristocratic theatre on the first night of a new piece. "What came they out to hear?" An earnest, serious, and candid discussion of a topic closely connected with all the dearest interests of the nation? Not they. If this kind of thing had been certain, a handful of Peers would have debated before empty benches and abbreviating reporters. That showy audience gathered, because Lord Ellenborough was going to make a dashing attack upon Government, which, it was thought, would bring up Lord Aberdeen, and because it would be interesting to see the podagraic War Minister baited, and because Lord "Darby" was sure to come out with something smart.

Nor was the distinguished audience disappointed. Lord Aberdeen certainly declined to make sport for the Philistines, but all the rest of the anticipated programme was faithfully given. Lord Ellenborough did make a "dashing" kind of attack, chiefly aimed at Lord Palmerston, who has incurred the Earl's displeasure by his blindness to Lord Ellenborough's fitness to be Secretary at War. With exceedingly bad taste he retailed an alleged story of the Duke of Wellington, who, when Lord Palmerston (to his credit) intimated that he should retire from the then Government if Mr. Huskisson did, made no reply, and justified his silence by telling Lord Ellenborough that he "should not fire great guns at small birds." Lord Lansdowne, later in the evening, said that he also had an anecdote about Lord Ellenborough and the Duke, but he could not tell it. It has, however, oozed out that the Duke greatly approved a squib in which certain political men were described as "horses for sale," and Lord Ellenborough's character was, "all action, and no go." And the Duke said, "Very good, very good—that's just it." Here, at all events, are two solemn facts elicited by a legislative discussion. And then Lord Panmure was duly roused to as severe a reply as that most good-natured personage could find it in his heart to make, and he scoffed at Lord Ellenborough's Oriental "grandiloquence" and his commonplace "truisms." Lord Hardwicke, a retired Rear-Admiral, went into some details which were felt to be too real for the occasion—they stood out, literal and hard, like cut figures against painted theatrical scenery, and Lord Derby restored the debate to its natural tone by a fluent and lively criticism—delivered in the manner which, in the old-fashioned times, was called "rallying"—upon the conduct of the war; but his allusions to Mr. Layard, whom he admitted to be the representative of a popular want, but with whom his Lordship was in no way connected, were more amusing, especially his announcement that in a supposed firm of "Ellenborough, Derby, and Layard," he (the Earl) was really not a partner. Nor was the Government leader of the Lords, the Earl Granville, less good-humoured. Indeed, to preserve the theatrical illustrations, he "came down to the lights," and played to the stalls. He told us that he was a Gower, and mentioned his aristocratic connexions; puffed Lord Carlisle, and, finally, took us into his very drawing-room, by reminding us that three ladies of his household had married into a Protectionist Administration. Now, really, to find living and actual Lords so

amusing and affable as this; to get smart little stories from them, mock diatribes, and allusions to the ladies of their families, was quite delightful. And, as for the war, and our 20,000 lost men, who thought of that?—or, if anybody did, was it not reassuring to be informed that the Emperor of Russia had already lost 277,000 men? The idea of complaining in the face of a fact like that!

Then the division was equally significant. Does anybody suppose that, though Lord Palmerston alleges that he has "got the Lords," the Earl of Derby could not have made a far more formidable show of men had he chosen? Had the Earl ordered a "whip," would there have been anything like the numerous majority against the other Earl—his noble friend? Would the party managers have been so careless as not to call the proxies they actually had, by which a difference of some sixty would have been made on the division. The Conservative party had no more idea of really supporting the principle which, however awkwardly enshrined, was to be found in Lord Ellenborough's resolution, than—the House of Commons will be found to have when the test is really applied.

It would be waste of time and space to apply ourselves in earnest to such part of Monday's debate as purported to be serious. Lord Ellenborough stated as a proposition, that promotion ought to be given only to those who are fitted for it, and the House of Lords certified that this was very true, just as in Smollett's novel, the doctor soothes the indignant lady with a certificate "that anybody who wilfully kills a child by immersing it in cold water, is guilty of the death of that child." But the Earl himself was compelled, at the close of his address, to make even this proposition palatable, by reminding their Lordships that a large portion of themselves held their exalted position through the merits of an ancestor who had been the fitting man for some place of chosen trust and responsibility. He might have said that nearly all he addressed were in that category, for, with the exception of a few descendants of those whose peerages took their rise in certain interesting favouritisms, every Lord in the House had an ancestor, whose strong hand, sharp sword, skilful management, or legal learning, gained his coronet. But how, in any system of logic in vulgar use, does this fact connect the sons or descendants of the "right men" with the proposition of the noble Earl. In fact the whole thing was hollow—the criticisms on the war had more or less truth in them; but they were not advanced in earnest any more than the arguments for administrative reform. It was not a war or a reform debate, but a "prepared impromptu" performance, suggested by the present discontent of the popular mind with things as they are.

But how long are such farces to continue? Between the House of Peers on the one hand, and Mr. Milner Gibson and his friends of the Lower House on the other, the character of the British nation stands a chance of being damaged, not only in the estimation of Europe, but in that of the British people. Let the triflers and the cravens beware. The people are in no mood to be jested with by the one or insulted by the other. If the Legislature has not as much earnestness, as much knowledge, and as much virtue as the people, the day of reckoning, which is certain to come, may sweep away many things, merely to mention which, at the present moment, might appear indiscreet and invidious, if not perilous. Just Reforms that are thwarted have an ugly propensity to expand into Revolutions. Is the Government of Great Britain never to reform an abuse until a revolution is imminent?

## THE COURT.

The Levee on the 11th inst. was more fully attended than any similar reception since her Majesty's accession to the throne, with the exception of the first, held by the Queen. On the evening of the same day the Queen and the Prince honoured with their presence the amateur performance at Drury-lane Theatre, for the benefit of the Wellington College.

On Saturday morning her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert visited the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham, accompanied by his Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and her Serene Highness the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. In the evening the Queen and the Prince, with their illustrious visitors, honoured the Royal Italian Opera with their presence.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princess Alice, the Duchess of Kent, the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, and Prince Ernest of Leiningen attended Divine service in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace. The Princesses Adelaide and Feodora of Hohenlohe attended Divine service in the Royal German Chapel, St. James's Palace.

On Monday the Prince Consort presided at the Council for the Management of the Duchy of Cornwall, and in the afternoon left Buckingham Palace for Windsor Castle, returning to town about six o'clock. Her Majesty had a dinner party in the evening. In the course of the day one hundred and eight Guards, wounded and disabled in the Crimea, and recently arrived in this country, were inspected by her Majesty, in the Grand Hall of Buckingham Palace. The invalids numbered 49 of the Grenadiers, 29 of the Coldstreams, and 30 of the Scots Fusilier Guards. The Queen was accompanied by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and also by their Royal Highnesses Prince Arthur, the Duchess of Kent, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and was attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting. Her Majesty inspected each soldier present, commencing with the Grenadiers, and afterwards the Coldstreams and Scots Fusiliers; the respective commanding officers and doctors announcing the actions in which the invalids were wounded, and the state of the health of the men. After the inspection the invalids were conducted to dinner in the Servants' Hall, which her Majesty and his Royal Highness the Prince visited while the repast was being served.

On Tuesday Count Walewski, the French Ambassador, had an audience of the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, to take leave. Prince Albert rode on horseback, in the forenoon, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, and attended by his Equerry in Waiting. His Royal Highness again rode in the afternoon, with the Duke of Saxe-Coburg.

On Wednesday her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert visited the Exhibition of the Horticultural Society, at Gore House, Kensington Gore. The Queen and the Prince were accompanied by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, and the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe.

On Thursday the Queen and the Prince honoured the Royal Italian Opera with their presence.

On Friday morning the Queen presented medals to the officers and soldiers of the three regiments of Guards, on the parade-ground, in St. James's-park. In the evening her Majesty gave a state concert.

Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, accompanied by her son, Prince Adolph, arrived at Kew, on Tuesday, from Germany, on a visit to her mother the Duchess of Cambridge. Her Royal Highness was attended by her Lady and Gentleman in Waiting, and by Baron Knesbeck.

The departure of the late Ambassador of France is a subject of universal regret in the higher circles. The formal act of retirement was completed on Tuesday by the presentation of his Excellency to her Majesty, for the purpose of delivering his letters of recall. On the completion of the ceremony, her Majesty was pleased to pay the Countess Walewska the gracious compliment of a private interview, for the purpose of bidding her farewell.

His Serene Highness Prince Ernest of Leiningen arrived in London on Saturday night, and is staying at Buckingham Palace, on a visit to her Majesty.

The Countess of Clarendon will be "at home" at the Foreign-office on Tuesday next.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Haydn's popular work, "The Creation," will be repeated for the last time this season, on Friday next, 25th May. Clara Novello, Sims Reeves, and Formes, are the principal singers.







if their sagacious opinions of those days were now brought up in evidence against them. In process of time, the critics, unable to resist the general voice, were constrained to allow Rossini's claims as an artist. He gradually became a classic, while his successors, Bellini and Donizetti, were treated as he had been before. They, too, triumphed by the irresistible voice of popular opinion; and then the critics were glad to admit that the men whom they had treated so lightly—the authors of the "Sonnambula" and "Norma," and "Lucia di Lammermoor" and "Lucrezia Borgia," were men of genius and true artists. In the case of their successor, Verdi, the opinion of critics is in a similar state of transition. They have resisted the general voice as long as they could; and now that they can do so no longer, they are constrained to allow that there must be something in it. Verdi is now talked of, *ex cathedra*, with tolerable respect; and his claims to the character of an artist will at length be admitted, as those of his predecessors have been. Of course, the musical Parnassus has many degrees of elevation; and, though Verdi may not reach the height of some who have gone before him, yet he has done enough to entitle him to an honoured place among the worthies of the art.

The "Trovatore" may be regarded as the best work he has yet produced. As a drama it is not equal to some of his previous operas. The story is revoltingly horrible, confused, and full of gross improbabilities. It turns upon revenge in its most atrocious form. A Gipsy woman, put to death by a nobleman on a charge of witchcraft, has a daughter, to whom she bequeaths the task of avenging her death. The daughter steals the Count's younger child, and brings him up as her own, instilling into his mind a hatred of his own brother, whom he knows not to be such. The brothers become rivals in love; the reputed son of the Gipsy (who has risen to distinction) being preferred by the object of their passion. The quarrel becomes deadly; the younger brother falls into the hands of the elder, who orders his execution. The Gipsy witnesses the death of her supposed son; and, when the axe has fallen, turns exultingly to the Count, exclaiming, "My mother is avenged; you have murdered your own brother!" The lady who is beloved by the rival brothers, unable to save her lover's life, swallows poison.

This black drama, equalling in horror the wildest imaginations of a Parisian melodramatist, is, nevertheless, strongly interesting, and its striking situations and impassioned scenes afford much scope for musical expression and effect. Of these capabilities the composer has availed himself; and, the opera, when well performed, never fails to make a deep impression on the audience.

It has, probably, never been better performed than by the com-



"A NEAPOLITAN FISHER-BOY."—PAINTED BY G. F. HURLSTONE.—EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

pany of the Royal Italian Opera. *Azucena*, the Gipsy woman, on whose terrible revenge the whole piece turns, is represented by Madame Viardot in a manner worthy of her original genius. Like *Fides* in the "Prophète," it is a creation entirely her own; full of individuality and truthfulness. She is a true Gipsy, exhibiting the peculiar features and violent passions of her race. Nothing can be more artistic than her singing, though the extraordinary power of her acting throws it into the shade.

Musically speaking, the part of *Leonora* is more prominent. The music of this part is of the most brilliant and arduous kind, bringing into action the whole powers of Mdlle. Jenny Ney's voice and execution. This lady is not only one of the most accomplished singers, but one of the greatest tragedians, now on the stage. Tamberlik gives the greatest possible effect to the character of the hero of the piece, *Mauricio*, the younger brother; and the elder, the *Count di Luna*, is excellently performed by Tagliafico. The opera has been put upon the stage with even more than usual splendour. Some of Beverley's scenery is exquisitely beautiful; and the costumes, decorations, and other accessories, are rich and tasteful.

The accompanying illustration represents a striking situation in the fourth scene of the second act. *Leonora*, believing her lover dead, has resolved to take the veil, and is proceeding towards the chapel with that intent, followed by her female attendants. The *Count di Luna*, at the head of a band of armed men, has issued from the adjoining wood, to carry her off by force, when *Mauricio*, suddenly appearing, "like a vision," stands between them. *Leonora* is kneeling, with her arms stretched towards the form of her lover, in an attitude of joyful wonder, while the *Count*, with folded arms, looks on in haughty indignation.

#### EXHIBITION OF SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS, IN SUFFOLK-STREET.

THE "Neapolitan Fisher-Boy," to which we directed attention in our notice of the Exhibition in Suffolk-street, is a very pleasing example of the pencil of the able President of the Society of British Artists. It will be seen how greatly the fisher-boys of Naples differ from our own Hastings and Cromer boys, and from the Boulogne fisher-boys—now so familiar even to the veriest Cockney. Mr. Hurlstone has thoroughly understood the characteristics of the class he has so successfully portrayed. Few English artists have caught more happily the boyish peculiarities of Spain and Naples than Mr. Hurlstone has done. The execution of the picture—though somewhat rough—is in good keeping.



SCENE FROM VERDI'S "IL TROVATORE," AT THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.